



**Get Ready!** Ask children to bring plastic soda bottles from home. Mark the bottles with “cup” measurements for estimating amounts—there will be about 4 cups to a 1 liter bottle. Cut the tops off the plastic soda bottles after the fourth cup measurement.

**1 Get Started** by asking children to think of ways they use water on a normal day—from the moment they get out of bed to when they go to sleep. Show them a plastic soda bottle full of water. How many bottles of water do they think it takes to wash their hands? Tell them they’re about to find out!

**2** Divide your group into Water Watcher pairs. One Water Watcher can time and write down how long it takes for the other to wash his or her hands. Then, have them run the faucet for the same amount of time using the bottle(s) to collect the water. Have them record how many

**Tip:** *Remind children that it’s not a competition to see who can wash their hands in the shortest or longest period of time!*



# WOODSY OWL



Woodsy's  
Home

bottles they filled. Help children round up or down to the nearest cup to find out how much water they used.

**Tip:** Stress that having clean hands is important to stay healthy and that it's okay to use water in this way.

**3** Now, figure out how much water each group used to wash its hands. It's easy—just follow the example in this illustration:

**Tip:** Store the clean water from the bottles to water indoor or outdoor plants, or to rinse off paintbrushes during an art project.



Water Watcher Records	
Pair 1	1 bottle, 1 cup
Pair 2	0 bottle, 3 cups
Pair 3	2 cups
Pair 4	
Pair	
Pair 12	1 bottle, 2 cups
Pair 13	2 bottles, 0 cup
Total:	12 bottles, 17 cups = about 16 bottles
	16 bottles × 2 (second partner) = 32 bottles

**4** **Close** by talking about why it's important to use water wisely. Some children may think that the earth has an unlimited supply of clean water. What are some ways to save water? One way is to not let the water run while you brush your teeth, another way is to take showers instead of baths.

**Tip:** While children are waiting for their turn, they can make posters that encourage others to use water wisely.

**It takes about 26 bottles of water to flush a toilet—about 110 bottles to take a bath, and 95 to take a shower.**

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## MORE WATER ARITHMETIC!

Older children can set up addition or multiplication equations to find out how much water they would use in a day, week, month, or year. Children can cut out little paper bottles and paste them on a posterboard to show their equations and results.

Try this activity with activities 3 (*Water, Water, Water*) and 11 (*Deliver Woody's Message*).



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