Where Water Waits

Use a water-drop model to compare Earth's reservoirs.

5.ESS2.2 "Describe and graph amounts of saltwater and freshwater in various reservoirs to provide evidence about the distribution of water on Earth."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB In the table, underline each drop count, circle its reservoir name, and number the freshwater reservoirs from 1 (most water) to 3 (least water).

Earth's Water, Drop by Drop

1. Imagine all of Earth's water as 10,000 equal drops in a clear tank. Each drop stands for the same amount of water, not one real raindrop. Most water is salty and sits in the oceans. A smaller share is freshwater, found as ice, underground, or in lakes and rivers. This model lets us compare reservoirs.

2. The table shows about how many drops belong to each reservoir. The numbers are rounded to make a model that totals 10,000 drops. Ocean water is saltwater. The other three rows are freshwater. Ice includes glaciers and ice sheets, while underground water fills spaces in soil and rock. Lakes and rivers hold only a tiny share.

EARTH'S WATER IN A 10,000-DROP MODEL

Reservoir	Water type	Drops
Oceans	Saltwater	9,750
Glaciers and ice sheets	Freshwater	175
Underground	Freshwater	74
Lakes and rivers	Freshwater	1

3. A graph can show differences in reservoir sizes. Give each bar a reservoir label, and use a scale that fits the largest value. A very small bar might be hard to see, so write its value above it. People and other living things use lakes and rivers. This model compares amounts of water, not how clean it is.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How many drops in the model are saltwater, and how many are freshwater? Show how you found the freshwater total.

2. Which freshwater reservoir holds the most water? How does its amount compare with the other two freshwater reservoirs combined?

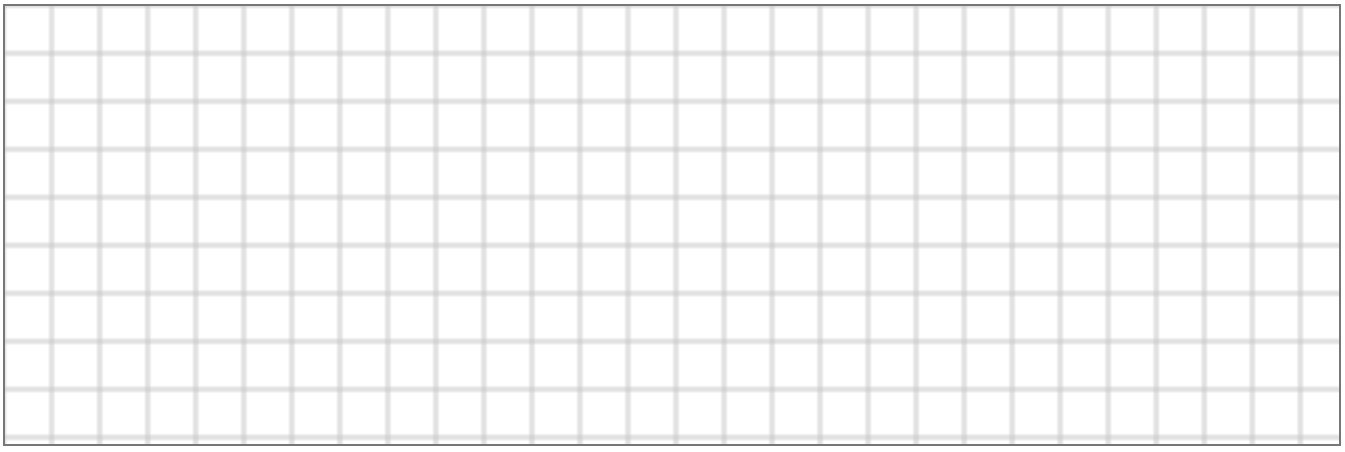
3. How many times as much water do the oceans hold as all the freshwater reservoirs combined? Use the table numbers.

4. Why would a bar for lakes and rivers be much shorter than a bar for underground water? Give both amounts.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

On the grid, make a bar graph of the three freshwater reservoirs in the table. Label both axes and each bar, then write two sentences explaining what your graph shows and why the smallest bar still matters.



ANSWER KEY

Where Water Waits

GRADE 5 · 5.ESS2.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

In the table, underline each drop count, circle its reservoir name, and number the freshwater reservoirs from 1 (most water) to 3 (least water). Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How many drops in the model are saltwater, and how many are freshwater? Show how you found the freshwater total.	**Saltwater: 9,750 drops. Freshwater: 175 + 74 + 1 = 250 drops.**
2	Which freshwater reservoir holds the most water? How does its amount compare with the other two freshwater reservoirs combined?	**Glaciers and ice sheets hold 175 drops. The other two hold 75 drops combined, so glaciers and ice sheets hold 100 more.**
3	How many times as much water do the oceans hold as all the freshwater reservoirs combined? Use the table numbers.	**The oceans hold 39 times as much: 9,750 ÷ 250 = 39.**
4	Why would a bar for lakes and rivers be much shorter than a bar for underground water? Give both amounts.	**Lakes and rivers hold 1 drop in the model, while underground water holds 74 drops.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Graph: The horizontal axis names glaciers and ice sheets, underground, and lakes and rivers. The vertical axis shows drops from 0 to 200 in steps of 25. The bars reach 175, 74, and 1, with 1 written above the smallest bar. Glaciers and ice sheets hold most of the freshwater shown in the model. Lakes and rivers hold the least, but living things use water from them.

Accept a scale that fits 175 and a clearly labeled value of 1 near the baseline. The 74-drop bar should reach just below 75 on a scale marked in steps of 25.