

# Water: Waste Not, Want Not



By Sarah Evans, April 2001

## Objectives:

- Students become familiar with water conservation issues affecting Whatcom County
- Students identify ways they and their families can help conserve water
- Students practice critical thinking skills by determining which section they should look for the puzzle answer based on key words in the clue.

## Activity:

- Discuss the meaning of the phrase “Waste not, want not”. Brainstorm with students. Where have they heard this before? Guide the discussion to discover the meaning: If you don’t waste it now, you’ll have some for later. You won’t be “in want”. This is a slightly different connotation of the word “want” than students will be used to. Connect this phrase to water conservation.
- Read the introduction together. Possibly have students bring in newspaper or magazine articles about drought as a homework assignment and discuss the current events surrounding this issue.
- Read the bold face titles of each section as a class. Explain that the titles will help them find information for the puzzle. For example, the key words in 1-across are rake, hose, sidewalk and driveways. These words would most likely be found under the category “Outside the House” and the sub-category “Landscape”. The last bullet in this section has the answer “broom”. Model these critical thinking steps for a few clues. You may even want to have students write down the category where they think the answer is next to the clue.
- Crossword puzzle tips for students:
  - If they’re stuck, skip to the next clue and go back later
  - Spell words correctly
  - Use letters that are already in the squares as additional clues
- Suggested follow-up activity
  - Have students check off conservation tips they already do and highlight ones they could start doing

## Questions/Comments:

- Please contact Scarlet Tang at WSU Cooperative Extension (360) 676-6736