

The Wind Blows: Water Consumption

Instructions

To play The Wind Blows, which is similar to musical chairs, there must be one less seat than participants in the circle (in our class, we ask that each student sit on one gardening cushion). The person standing reads the first Wind Blows card and all players for whom the sentence applies must stand up and find a new seat, moving at least 3 spaces away from their original seat. The standing person also finds a seat, so whoever is left without a seat replaces the standing person next to the pile of cards. First, the standing person from the first round reads aloud the back of their Wind Blows card from their new seat, and then the new standing person reads the next Wind Blows card. Game continues until time or cards have run out.

Cards

Make a card with the wind blows prompt on the front and the associated information (written in italics below) on the back. Cards can be used in any order.

FRONT OF CARD: The wind blows for anyone who leaves the water running while brushing his or her teeth.

BACK OF CARD: *Leaving the water running while you brush your teeth can use up to 10 gallons of water!*

1. The wind blows for anyone who leaves the water running while brushing his or her teeth.
Leaving the water running while you brush your teeth can use up to 10 gallons of water!
2. The wind blows for anyone who flushes the toilet every time they pee.
The average toilet uses between 5 and 7 gallons every time it is flushed!
3. The wind blows for anyone who has watered plants in the garden.
Watering when it is hot out is less efficient because more water evaporates before it reaches the soil. We try to water the garden in mornings and evenings when possible.
4. The wind blows for anyone who takes a shower every day.
For every minute spent in the shower, ten gallons of water are used!
5. The wind blows for anyone who has helped wash a car before.
Any time soapy water runs into the street in Berkeley, it ends up draining into the bay and affecting wildlife and other living things.
6. The wind blows for anyone who has eaten red meat in the last week.

It takes over 5,000 gallons of water to raise and process a pound of beef – this is ten times the amount it takes to grow 1 pound of wheat!

7. The wind blows for anyone who has a lawn at home.
Lawns are extremely water inefficient. Native and drought-resistant plants use only a fraction of the water lawns use and can survive long periods of time without any water at all!
8. The wind blows for anyone who thinks they know where Berkeley tap water originates.
The water in Berkeley originates in the Sierra Nevada Mountains over 200 miles away.
9. The wind blows for anyone who thinks they use less than 150 gallons of water per day.
The average East Bay resident uses 160 gallons of water per day.
10. The wind blows for anyone who thinks that bottled water is safer than tap water.
Actually, bottled water is less regulated than tap water. Bottled water companies do not have to disclose the water's source, purification methods, or chemical pollutants in each bottle.
11. The wind blows for anyone who uses a reusable water bottle.
Bottling water produces more than 2.5 million tons of carbon dioxide per year. Also, it takes three liters of water to produce every liter of bottled water.
12. The wind blows for anyone who has seen a leaky faucet.
A small leak may seem harmless, but leaky faucets can waste about 2,000 gallons of water per year! If you notice a leak, speak up so that it gets fixed soon.
13. The wind blows for anyone who has access to clean and safe drinking water whenever they want it.
Water is essential for all life on Earth but many people do not have access to a clean and reliable source of water. Approximately 1 out of 8 people globally do not have access to safe drinking water. 3.5 million people die each year from diseases caused by consuming contaminated water.
14. The wind blows for anyone who helps clean his or her home.
Did you know that chemical based cleaning products poured down the drain eventually end up in the San Francisco Bay? Though wastewater treatment removes many pollutants, there are still many unknown and harmful effects on the bay. You can use plant-based products for cleaning, like baking soda and vinegar—these will get the job done and are kind to the environment at the same

time.

15. The wind blows for anyone who drinks tap water.

Luckily, most of the water in the Bay Area comes from Sierra Nevada snowmelt stored in the Hetch Hetchy reservoir in Yosemite National Park and is safe to drink. However, the drinking water for 65% of Californians is threatened by contamination by dairy cow manure.