

LAB – How Water is Distributed Throughout Earth

OBJECTIVES:

- Comparing percent of Earth’s saltwater to freshwater.
- Comparing the percent of freshwater available for consumption.

MATERIALS:

- worksheet
- 1 L beaker
- 100 mL graduated cylinder
- 10 mL graduated cylinder
- dropper
- cup

BACKGROUND:

Earth is called the “Water Planet” because it is covered mainly with water (70%). This resource needed by all living things is one of the main limiting factors for life on Earth. On a global scale, only a small percentage of water is available, but this percentage represents a large amount per person.

PROCEDURE:

Part I – Percent Saltwater vs. Freshwater

1. You have been given a 1 Liter beaker of water. This represents all the water on Earth. Pour out the amount that you think represents freshwater into the 100 mL graduated cylinder.

2. What percent do you think is saltwater? _____%

3. What percent do you think is freshwater? _____%

Part II – Percent Available Freshwater

4. You now have a 100 mL graduated cylinder representing freshwater. Freshwater can be lakes, rivers, icebergs, glaciers, groundwater, etc. Separate the freshwater into the following categories:
 - 100 mL graduated cylinder - glaciers and icecaps
 - 10 mL graduated cylinder – unavailable freshwater (clouds, underground, polluted, etc.)
 - cup – freshwater available for human use

CONCLUSION

5. Fill in the Water Availability Table.
6. Draw a pie graph to represent the Percent of Total Water from the Water Availability Table.