

Exercises on "Our Planet: Fresh Water" (Netflix Documentary)

The video "Our Planet | Fresh Water" explores the importance of fresh water for life on Earth, the challenges of water scarcity, and the impact of human activities and climate change on freshwater ecosystems^[1] ^[2]. Here are engaging exercises to deepen understanding of the episode's main themes:

1. Comprehension Questions

- What percentage of the world's water is fresh and easily accessible for living creatures?
- Describe how the Australian desert transforms when monsoon rains arrive. What chain of events does this trigger?
- Why is the salmon migration in North America important for both salmon and other species?
- Explain how plants and animals in the Pantanal wetlands adapt to seasonal changes in water levels.
- What are some human activities mentioned in the documentary that threaten freshwater sources?

2. True or False

- Only about 1% of the world's water is available as fresh water for living things.
- Most of the planet's fresh water is found in rivers and lakes.
- The Mekong River supports the largest inland fishery in the world.
- Climate change and pollution have no significant impact on freshwater habitats.
- The documentary shows that many animals rely on seasonal floods for breeding.

3. Short Answer / Discussion

- Discuss how climate change is making the availability of fresh water more unpredictable. Give examples from the documentary.
- How do animals like elephants and hippos survive during droughts?
- Why is the preservation of wetlands like the Pantanal and the Okavango Delta crucial for biodiversity?
- What role do humans play in both harming and helping freshwater ecosystems, according to the episode?

4. Research & Presentation Task

Choose one of the following topics to research further and present to the class:

- The life cycle of salmon and the impact of dams on their migration.
- The importance of floodplains and seasonal wetlands for wildlife.
- The effects of water pollution on river ecosystems.
- Conservation efforts to protect endangered freshwater species.

5. Critical Thinking / Debate

Prompt:

"Should humans prioritize their own water needs over the needs of wildlife and ecosystems? Why or why not?"

Form two groups and hold a debate, using examples from the documentary to support your arguments.

6. Creative Exercise

Imagine you are a freshwater animal (e.g., a salmon, a pelican, or a manatee) featured in the documentary. Write a diary entry describing a day in your life, focusing on the challenges you face due to changes in your habitat.

7. Data Interpretation

The documentary mentions that about two-thirds of the planet's fresh water is locked up in ice caps and glaciers.

- Draw a pie chart showing the distribution of water on Earth (saltwater, freshwater in ice, accessible freshwater).
- Based on this, discuss why water conservation is important.

These exercises encourage comprehension, critical thinking, research, creativity, and data literacy, all while reinforcing the key messages of "Our Planet: Fresh Water" ^[1] ^[2].



1. [watch?v=R2DU85qLfJQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R2DU85qLfJQ)

2. <https://notegpt.io/youtube-video-summarizer>