

# THE DRIPPING TAP INVESTIGATION



Do you have a dripping tap in your house or school?

It may not seem a lot, but how much water will go down the plughole in a day, a week or a year?

If none of your taps leak - well done! You can still do this experiment by turning a tap on slightly so that it is dripping.

## Equipment needed

Tap Measuring jug Clock or timer Good maths brain (or calculator!)

## What to do

- 1 Estimate how much water will drip in one hour.
- 2 Change this into litres. *Remember there are 1,000 ml in a litre!*
- 3 Find out how much this will be in a day. *How many hours in a day?*
- 4 Calculate how much this will be in a year. *How many days in a year?*

<input type="text"/>	ml
<input type="text"/>	l
<input type="text"/>	l/day
<input type="text"/>	l/day

## Now you're ready to do the experiment

- 1 Turn your tap on slowly, then gradually close it until it is dripping.
- 2 Put a measuring jug under the tap so that the drips are being collected. Start timing!
- 3 After one minute, find out how much water has been collected.

Water wasted by the dripping tap in one minute

<input type="text"/>	ml	
(x60)	<input type="text"/>	ml/hour
(÷1000)	<input type="text"/>	l/hour
(x24)	<input type="text"/>	l/day
(x365)	<input type="text"/>	l/year



Water has to be treated so that it is safe to drink. This costs money and takes energy so every drop saved is good for our environment and our bank accounts!

Finally, think about what to do with the water you've collected rather than throwing it down the plughole. Eg, water a plant.