

PART -1:

AVAILABILITY OF WATER:

All living beings, animals, birds, plants and humans need water for various body processes and purposes.

Human beings use water for various purposes such as washing, cleaning, industrial needs, irrigation, hydroelectric generation, fisheries etc.

So how much of water is available on earth? Is this water sufficient for all us and the coming generations? Let us find out.

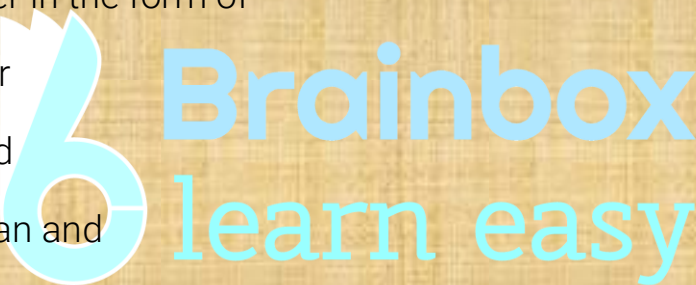
Earth is called a blue planet because it is covered with 71% water in the form of

River

Pond

Ocean and

Streams



However 97% of water present on earth is saline water.

Hence it cannot be used for Household consumption Nor agriculture
Not even industries.

The remaining 3% is fresh water two-thirds of which is frozen in the form of glaciers.

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Only 0.006% of water present on earth is available for consumption.

However, most of us assume water to be a limitless resource and waste it irresponsibly.

Let us now look at various forms of water again.

FORMS OF WATER:

In nature, water exists in three states,

Solid, liquid and gas.

Water in solid form is known as ice or snow. Snow and ice, is present as ice caps at the poles of the earth, snow-covered mountains and Glaciers.

Water in gaseous form is known as water vapor.

But the most common form of water found is liquid. It is in this form that we know as water.

The natural process of circulation of water from land to the sky and back to the land again is called water cycle.

This continuous cycling of water in the three forms keeps the water on earth balanced and constant even when the whole world is using it.

Most towns and cities have water supply system maintained by the civic.

The water is drawn from nearby lakes, rivers, ponds or wells. The water is supplied through a network of pipes.

Many villages do not have such a water supply system. There people fetch water directly from the sources.

We shall learn more about sources of water in our next lesson.