

KNOW YOUR WATER WEB QUEST

Introduction and Background

Did you use water today? If you brushed your teeth, used a toilet, took a shower, ate a meal, or even breathed chances are very good that water was involved. We use water in almost everything we do, and for most of the things we do that involve water, there is nothing we could use as a substitute.

Many Texans do not realize how much water is used every day and for what purpose or activity. If we do not have an accurate picture of how water is used, we cannot make a successful plan to conserve water.

It takes thoughtful planning to make sure that when you turn on the faucet, water comes out. Texans rely on both groundwater from aquifers and surface water from rivers and reservoirs to provide enough water for everyone to drink. Water is also needed for almost everything else you can think of and ensuring that water will continue to flow for future generations of Texans requires a comprehensive water plan.

Creating a long term plan to ensure Texas has enough water is a complex process. Texas is divided into 16 regional water planning groups and every five years each group develops a water plan for their region. The Texas Water Development Board coordinates the regional water planning process and incorporates the regional plans into a State Water Plan that is updated every five years.

In these exercises, you are going to investigate the region you live in and the water data from your regional water plan. You will use the Interactive State Water Plan from the Texas Water Development Board's website. There is much more in the Plan about your region, but let's focus on the data to find the demand, supply, potential shortages, and strategy supplies of water where you live.

Instructions

To begin, go to <http://www.twdb.texas.gov/>

Exercise 1

- Scroll down to the bottom of the page and click on Interactive State Water Plan (ISWP) under "OTHER TWDB WEBSITES".
- Click on "ABOUT" in the upper right hand corner.
- Scroll down and read "What is this site and what does it do?"
- Scroll down and read "How do I find the information I'm looking for?"
- Scroll down and read "State Water Plan Data".

- Scroll back to the top and click on “Texas State Water Plan”. This shows data for all of Texas.
 1. On the line graph of Texas at the top, what is the population projected to do from 2020 to 2070? _____
 2. Read the paragraph under the line graph and map. How many regional water plans does Texas have? _____
 3. Name the 6 water user groups in the state.
 4. The regional and state water plan consider a ____-year planning horizon: _____ through _____.
 5. List the 5 pieces of data the website shows:

Exercise 2

- Go back to the top of the page.
- Find your region from the map on the right. Click on the region. The paragraph under the map tells about your region. The graphs/tables/charts below the paragraph are data for your region. (You can also do this for each county by clicking on the county in the map).

The first graph/table show Totals by Decade. Compare the planning horizon 2020 through 2070 in each question below.

1. What do demands show?
2. What is happening with existing supplies?

3. What about with potential shortages?

4. What about strategy supplies?

Exercise 3

Next use both the Demands by Usage Type chart (click on "SHOW DATA TABLE") and the Data by Usage Type graphs. Compare the planning horizon 2020 through 2070.

1. What usage type has the highest demand? _____
2. Do the existing supplies keep up? _____
3. In 2070, what user type has the biggest potential shortage? _____

Exercise 4

- Scroll down to "Recommended Projects".
 1. What is the total capital cost of recommended projects? _____
- Scroll down to "Data by Planning Decade and Theme". Compare Decade 2020 to 2070. On "Theme" click on Strategy Supplies.
 2. In looking at the pie chart, what water resources are planned?

 3. Look to the table at the right, what strategy types are planned to meet your shortage?