



A Day Without the Tap

Have you ever thought about what life was like in the early days of Southern California? There are many conveniences that we enjoy today that were not available to the early settlers. Running water is one of these. What would it be like if there were no faucets in your home?

Try this: Spend a day trying to live without your taps. Fill a few very large pots and/or bowls and put them in one location, preferably outside if possible, the night before you decide to live for a day without the tap. This could also be done first thing in the morning. Every time you need to use water*, rather than turn on the faucet, go fill a container with water from your water source to use for drinking, cooking, cleaning, etc. Remember that you will be using this water for drinking and cooking, so be sure to cover the containers and use only clean containers to get the water to use, making sure not to touch the water with your hands in order to keep it clean. Alternatively, if filling large pots is too difficult, or not possible, try to use only one faucet in your home, such as the kitchen sink. This would be as if there was a pump in the kitchen, so use only the cold tap. Anytime you need water*, you have to get it from the kitchen sink, and bring it where it might be needed.

*For the purposes of hygiene and safety, we will make the toilet, hand washing, and bathing exempt in this experiment, but you are encouraged to keep track of all the times you used water this way.

Before you start, discuss with your family what they think it will be like. How will you brush your teeth and wash your face? How will you wash dishes? How much water do you think you will need?

As you go through the day, take pictures of how your family is making a day without the taps work, and post them on social media #daywithoutthetap along with any comments about your experience.

After you have tried living for a day without the taps, have another family discussion about what it was like, and what you noticed about how you use water. The following questions can help guide your conversation:

- How did it go?
- Was easier or more difficult than you thought it would be?
- What was the most difficult part?
- Did anything surprise you?





- What did you notice about how you used water on your day without the tap compared to how you normally use water?
- What if you had to haul in water and heat it before taking a bath?
- Do you normally use more water than you really need?
- How did people around here get water 200 years ago? What if they wanted hot water?
- Where does our water come from now? How does it get to the tap?
- What would it be like to live in a place where there is no running water, including flush toilets, in people's homes?

After completing this activity, will you change the way you use water? As a family, make a commitment practice a specific conservation strategy. Write it down and post it somewhere everyone in the family will see it daily. Have everyone help to decorate your commitment poster so that it is fun to look at and all members of the household helped. Take a picture of your water conservation commitment and post it on social media #daywithoutthetap.

