



# Where our water comes from

**Earth and Space Sciences**



**Written for the Australian Curriculum: Science**

Sienna Osborne | Randall Hall | Richard John

## AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM: SCIENCE

<b>Strand:</b>	Science as a Human Endeavour, Science Understanding
<b>Sub-strand:</b>	Earth and Space Sciences
<b>Descriptor:</b>	People use science in their daily lives, including when caring for their environment Earth's resources are used in a variety of ways

### SCIENCE WORDS

Dams, rivers, Water Treatment Plant, Murray River, crops, bore water, pump, windmill, desalination plant

### INFORMATION FOR PARENTS OR CAREGIVER

Helping your child learn to read is a rewarding and enjoyable experience for both you and your child. Here are some ways you can help your child with their reading.

#### BEFORE READING

- Introduce the book; read the title and look at the pictures. Ask your child if they know where their water comes from.
- Refer to the science words above. Discuss each word and its meaning. These words will appear in the book.

#### DURING READING

- At this level, your child should attempt to read their home reader on their own. There may be words they are unsure of. Encourage them to break these words down into their individual sounds, blending them from left to right.
- Stop your child on the pages where Suzie the Scientist appears. Discuss the science vocabulary and interesting information presented.

#### SCIENCE CONCEPTS IN THIS BOOK

Water is a precious resource on our planet—especially in Australia, one of the driest countries on Earth. Despite the fact that 70% of the Earth is covered with water, less than 3% of it is freshwater. Over two-thirds (69%) of this freshwater is frozen in glaciers in places like Antarctica and Greenland and is therefore inaccessible to us. Around 30% of **freshwater** is actually **groundwater**—i.e. water that exists below the Earth's surface. Only 0.3% of freshwater is the surface water found in rivers, lakes and streams.

This book looks at the different ways water is sourced in Australia. In the early stages of the *Australian Curriculum: Science* students are asked to consider the implications of limited natural resources, such as water, and to consider how water is transferred from its source to its point of use.

The inaccessibility of fresh, liquid water for drinking and agricultural purposes poses serious challenges for people in Australia. Being able to source, store and transport our water *in different ways* will be the key to securing our water supplies into the future.



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In Australia our drinking water comes from many different places.

Where our water comes from depends on where we live.

Some places in Australia get water from dams and rivers.

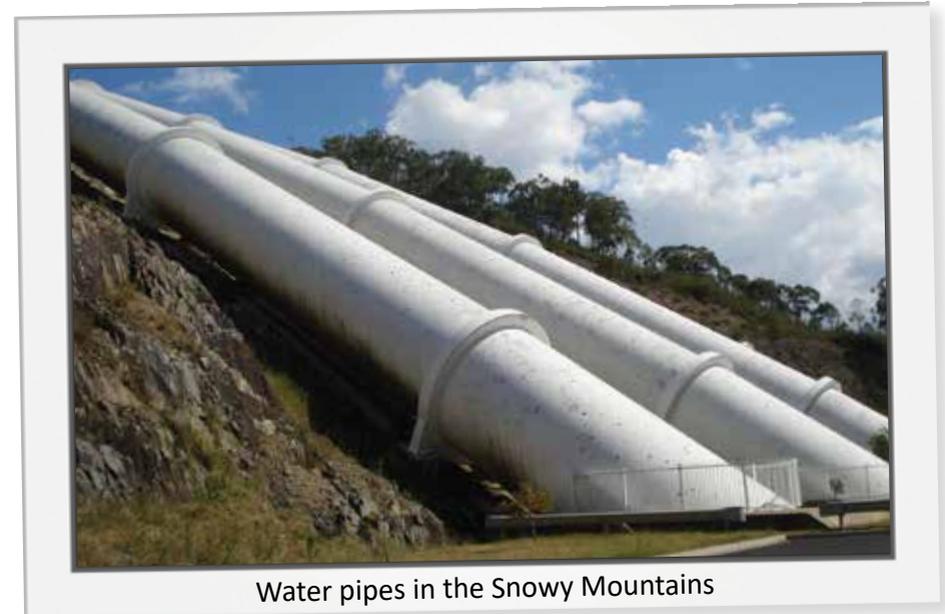
Other places get their water from under ground or from rain.

We can even get our drinking water from the sea.



# Water from dams

In many big cities and towns our water comes from dams. Dams are built across rivers to hold lots of water that can be used in our homes.



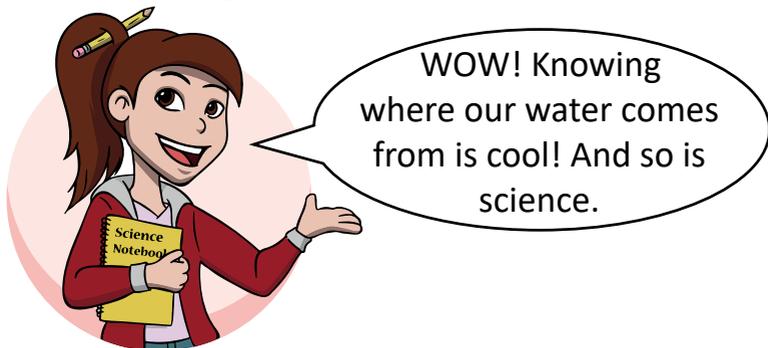
Water pipes in the Snowy Mountains

Water from the dam flows in big pipes to a Water Treatment Plant.

Australia is a very dry country.

Water is a precious resource.

Being able to get our water  
from different places is very  
important.



## AFTER READING

Ask your child what the book was about and encourage them to re-tell it in the order in which it appeared.

Discuss the following with your child to assist in understanding the content of the book:

- Can you name three different ways we can get water in Australia?
- What is under ground water called? How can we get under ground water into our homes?
- There are very few rivers and dams in the outback. Where do you think people who live in the outback get their water from?
- Where does the water come from in your house?

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# Where our water comes from

**Earth and Space Sciences**

In this book Suzie the Scientist helps us learn about where our water comes from. We learn that people in Australia get their water from a range of different sources depending on where they live. Suzie also shows us how we get water from unusual places such as the sea and from under ground.

**Australian Curriculum:** All books in the 'Suzie the Scientist' series are written for the *Australian Curriculum: Science* and align directly to what children learn in the classroom. This book addresses the learning outcome "Earth's resources are used in a variety of ways" from the Earth and Space Sciences sub-strand.



WOW!  
Knowing where our water comes from is cool! And so is science.

## PARENTS, READ ALONG WITH SUZIE!

Throughout this book Suzie the Scientist tells us interesting scientific facts. Use these pages to encourage further interest and discussion about **where our water comes from** with your child.

### Suggested Reading Level:



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