

Water is one of the five elements without which physical life on Earth would be impossible. Which are the other four elements?

1. Water	2.	3.
4.	5.	

Apart from these, there are other components such as consciousness which we may not be able to see and measure. But we know they exist!

In this episode of Explore a World of Ideas, we will watch a documentary on Water and its influence in making life possible. Here are some other things about water to think of, before you watch the documentary.

**Where did water come from?** In another documentary, Time Travelers, we saw how water originated from within Earth 3.5 billion years ago. But how did water get there to begin with? On 20 October 2011, NASA reported the discovery of water in outer space. This water may be the original source for water on Earth. Read it here: <http://tinyurl.com/spacewater>

**Here are a few Samskrutam words for water** (Courtesy: Sri Rajagopalan, Rishi Valley School):

अंभः, अर्णः	It flows
तोयम् , अम्बुः	It covers many places
पानीयम्	That which can be drunk
मेघपुष्पम्	Flower of the cloud
घनरसम्	Juice of the cloud
नीरम्	It brings happiness

Think of words for water in other languages you know.

**Water is revered** in many eastern cultures, especially Indian culture. Here is Sant Tukdyaa Daas describing the water cycle.

सागर से उठा बादल बन के ।      You rose from the ocean and became cloud  
बादल से फुटा जल हो कर के ॥      From the cloud you poured down as water (rain)

फिर नहर बनाया नदिया गहरी ।      Then you made the deep rivers  
तेरे भिन्न प्रकर तू एक ही है ॥      Your forms are different, but You are only One  
(सन्त तुक्ड्या दास)

आकाशात् पतितं तोयं यथा गच्छति सागरम् ।  
सर्वदेव-नमस्कारः श्रीकेशवं प्रतिगच्छति ॥

“As (rain)water falling from the skies goes to the ocean

Salutations to all gods go to Sri Keshava”

**Explore:**

1. What are the many ways in which we adore (worship) water in India?
2. What are the many ways in which water is used at your home?
3. What is the chemical formula of water?
4. What is the body of water nearest to you?

In this episode of “How Earth Made Us”, Dr. Iain Stewart explores how water has been crucial to life on Earth. The journey is full of surprises – water in some very unlikely places, art that tells us of water that was once found in places but no longer there. How did changes in Earth’s environment cause changes in where water is available? Earth is called “The Blue Planet” because so much of its surface is covered with water, but most of the water (97%) is not directly useful to us. Only 3% is fresh water that we can drink and use for growing crops. This 3% is not found everywhere. Even where it is found, we can’t always reach it. So, there is very little fresh water that we can actually use. Availability of fresh water has influenced how human history has progressed.

**Locate these in your atlas:**

• Sahara desert	• Iceland	• Countries of the “Middle East”	• Fertile Crescent
• Egypt	• The course of the river Nile from origin to end	• Tigris and Euphrates rivers	• Indus
• Yellow river	• Libya	• Tallahassee, Florida	• Cherrapunjee
• Scotland	• Cambodia	• Jordan (country and river)	• Los Angeles, California
• Syria			

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      I U Y
    Q Q P S Y S
  G R B D Q S B T M
  J I I C A D H A C
  C S T O P Y A L C I
  R T A W R O K G N A
  L S V N E Q N X Y M H   M O N S O O N G V L P
    Z L U I N F P H M C I R O T S I H E R P W B
      R E G N A H C E T A M I L C G H J X R C
        Q R Y F S E N U D D N A S S O
          I R A U I X K Z N
            S L Q R J C O Y M Q M K A
              T T V C N C L O U D S A R P R
                E L B A T R E T A W X V I O E K Q V F
                  T N Q X L N L E V A P O R A T I O N G A Z
                    T N E C S E R C E L I T R E F C P A E R E
                      E F N E I C E A G E B F K J F H A K U B M C Z
                        K L T H G U O R D   P I S   E J L H Q F I O W
                          K E K N A X Y A S   S Y T   O K G M S U N L H
                            O H S C M I G N   U C E   T P E X K G N Z
                              W G J B I K B   U F P   B R Z P D T K
                                L G H Y S   I X W   T P K S Q
                                  Z M Z   K N E   F D W
                                    F T L
                                      S K L

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This puzzle has 26 key terms from the documentary. Look these words up in a dictionary, if you don't know the meanings. There are no blank spaces in the puzzle... for example "Fertile crescent" will appear as "FERTILECRESCENT". Words are in all directions.

Adaptation	Clay pots	Farming	Khmer	Sickle
Agricultural revolution	Climate change	Fertile crescent	Monsoon	Silt
Angkor wat	Clouds	Glacier	Percolate	Step well
Atmosphere	Drought	Ground water	Prehistoric	Torrents
Canals	Evaporation	Ice age	Sand dunes	Water cycle
Water table				