Character illustrations done by JoLene Kohout, Papio-Missouri NRD, Omaha, Nebraska.
This activity book is based upon the Texas Water Development Board's book, "Know Your Water."
Thank you for the use of phrasing and ideas for this "Know Nebraska's Water" activity book.
Developed by the Upper Republican Natural Resources District, Imperial, Nebraska
and the Papio-Missouri Natural Resources District, Omaha, Nebraska.
Additional graphic artwork by Chris Fidler, Johnson Publications, Inc., Imperial, Nebraska.

This project was coordinated by Heather Francis, Conservation and Information Specialist,
Upper Republican Natural Resources District.

The character "Papa Tom Cottonwood" is dedicated to Southwest Four Extension Educator
Tom Dill. Tom was instrumental at the beginning of this project and the idea for using
the Nebraska state symbols as the characters of this activity book. Spring 2007.

Papa Tom Cottonwood says "I am Nebraska's State Tree!"
"Come take a journey with my friends and I.
Learn more about Nebraska and our water."
We all use water differently.

My name is Whitey Whitetail and I am Nebraska’s State Mammal. We all need to use water wisely!

Hon E. Bee asks: “Did you know I am Nebraska’s State Insect?”

Megan Meadowlark is my name and I am the State Bird of Nebraska. Wetlands sure are wonderful.

A FUN Fact
Nebraska has the United States largest aquifer or underground water supply, the Ogallala Aquifer.
Nebraska is both wet and dry.

Panhandle
17″ per year
DRY

Southeast Nebraska
31″ per year
WET

Where it’s dry we use water EXTRA carefully.

Even where it’s wet, we need to use our water wisely.
Water is important for both humans and animals.

A Fun Fact
More than half of the human body (about 65%) is made of water. You can go for weeks without food, but only days without water.
Definition:
Watershed—
A watershed is the land area from which surface runoff drains into a stream, lake or other body of water.

A Fun Fact
Nebraska is the only state with a Natural Resources Districts system. The NRDs are responsible for conserving and developing the state's natural resources.

Find the Natural Resource Districts Names

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Central Platte  Lewis Clark  Little Blue  Lower Big Blue  Lower Elkhorn  Lower Loup  Lower Niobrara  Lower Platte North  Lower Platte South  Lower Republican  Middle Niobrara  Middle Republican  Nemaha  North Platte  Papio Missouri River  South Platte  Tri Basin  Twin Platte  Upper Big Blue  Upper Elkhorn  Upper Loup  Upper Niobrara White  Upper Republican

The boundaries of the NRDs are formed from the natural boundaries of the river WATERSHEDS of Nebraska.
Did you know?
Nebraska has more miles of rivers than any other state.

Definition:
Aquifer—
An underground area of gravel and sand that holds water.

Definition:
Reservoir—
a pond or lake created by building a dam on a river.

Find the names of the major Nebraska rivers.

Nebraska Rivers

Big Blue  Elkhorn  North Platte
Little Blue  Middle Platte  Missouri
Nemaha  Loup  Nohbra
Lower Platte  South Platte  White River Hat Creek

Republican
Big or Small, Plug 'Em All . . .
Well Plugging is Extremely Important
When Drilling a New Well.

Decommissioning (plugging) abandoned wells is very important to help with groundwater quality, especially for drinking water.

Help protect groundwater by plugging abandoned wells!
Hon E. Bee says
"Bee aware of where you walk, abandoned wells could be anywhere!"

Did You Know?
Non Point Source pollution is the leading source of U.S. water quality problems.

Abandoned wells can be physically hazardous. If a well is not properly sealed, small animals and even children may be at risk of falling into the well.
Practice good outdoor water activities.

- Longer grass will reduce the loss of water evaporation.
- Adjust your mower to a higher setting.
- Mulch will slow evaporation of moisture and discourage weed growth.
- Use a broom, instead of a hose to clean off sidewalks and driveways.
- Don’t water your lawn on windy days. After all, sidewalks and driveways don’t need water.

Thanks for sweeping. Anything that goes down here flows into a river.

A FUN Fact
An ear of corn is 80% water.
Take shorter showers. You can save 3 gallons for every MINUTE!

Turn off the water while you brush your teeth.

Leaving the water on uses 4 gallons of water.

Turning the water off while you brush uses only 1/2 gallon.
Practice good indoor water conservation.

A toilet is not a trash can.

A Fun Fact
Toilets use from 1 1/2 to 5 1/2 gallons of water for every flush. For a family, that adds up to about 20 to 70 gallons per day.

Don’t run the water from your faucet to get cold water. Keep a bottle or pitcher of water in the refrigerator instead.

When using the washing machine, wash full loads of laundry.
Plant native plants in your garden.
(Plants that normally grow in the area you live.)

1-Blue  2-Dark Green  3-Yellow Green  4-Yellow  5-Yellow Orange  6-Brown  7-Light Blue  8-Light Gray  9-White  10-Orange  11-Black
Help Hon E. Bee find her way to the hive!
Fun Fact
Nebraska comes from a word meaning "flat water". The Platte River is the major tributary in Nebraska. It is the State River and is 310 miles long.

How many words can you make from "Nebraska?"

1. ___________ 6. ___________ 11. ___________
2. ___________ 7. ___________ 12. ___________
3. ___________ 8. ___________ 13. ___________
4. ___________ 9. ___________ 14. ___________
5. ___________ 10. ___________ 15. ___________

Did you know?
The state soft drink is Kool-Aid. It was developed by Edwin Perkins in Hastings, Nebraska!

What is the main ingredient of Kool-Aid? Water!

Color this pitcher your favorite Kool-Aid flavor

Answers to:
Word Scramble
Nebraska relies on groundwater for domestic use for 90% of the people.

Nebraska
Whitey Whitetail
Hon E Bee
Papa Tom Cottonwood
Megan Meadowlark
Aquifer
Natural Resources District
Word Scramble

Nebraska relies on ____________ for

____________ use for 90% of the

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