



THE RIPPLE EFFECT ASSEMBLY

MAKING WAVES IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS

VOLUNTEER GUIDE

**NORTHUMBRIAN
WATER** *living water*



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INTRODUCING THE RIPPLE EFFECT ASSEMBLY MAKING WAVES IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Thank you for volunteering your time on this exciting project and welcome to The Ripple Effect Assembly pack. This pack is designed to give you everything you need to deliver a fun and effective assembly in a school.

We recommend that schools put aside 45 minutes for the assembly but as you'll see below there are lots of options to suit the needs of a school. We're offering lots of content and timing options for the assembly whether the school has 45 minutes available or only 25 minutes.

This pack contains a short guide to The Ripple Effect Assembly, a script and a presentation to use when you deliver the assembly. Remember to complete our evaluation after you have delivered your assembly to tell us how it went!

Below you can see a table with all of the activities included in the pack with approximate timings. The whole assembly should take about 45 minutes, we have made some alternative timing recommendations below.



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ASSEMBLY CONTENT AND APPROXIMATE TIMINGS:

Time	Detail
5 minutes	SETTING THE SCENE An opportunity for you to introduce yourself and The Ripple Effect.
20 minutes	THE WATER TRACKER STORY This story will make the world of The Ripple Effect and The Water Trackers come alive. Pupils will be drawn into the 'why' of water efficiency skills and be inspired to learn more about becoming a Water Tracker.
10 minutes	THE ACTIVITY ZONE The assembly will be activated and full of energy as the children participate in games to embed learning. Please choose one game to play. See the Game Guide for more.
5 minutes	ALL ABOUT YOU This is an opportunity for you to share more about the role that you perform at Northumbrian Water Group. Think about what an average day look like for you and which skills do you think you need to thrive in your job. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• This five minute activity should be prepared in advance of delivering the assembly.• We recommend talking about your role for three to four minutes and leaving a minute for questions from the children.
5 minutes	THE WATER TRACKER SONG Pupils will listen to the catchy Water Tracker Song which includes some key facts about waters and easy tips to save water. They will be invited to sing along.
10 minutes	MAKING THE RIPPLE EFFECT PLEDGE Pupils come up with their own pledge and commit to make positive changes to the way they use water, and to use their knowledge to help other people save water.

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AFTER THE SESSION

Remember to let school staff know about our Ripple Effect Water Pledge certificates.

We also have recommendations of how the school can include the whole school community in The Ripple Effect. If there's time during your school visit share these ideas with your school contact.

- We have lots of Water Tracker training resources on our website where you can take a deeper dive into The Ripple Effect and continue to develop your children's water efficiency skills and knowledge. Visit www.nwg.co.uk/ripple to continue your water saving adventures!
- Why not involve parents and carers in your Ripple Effect Pledge? You can use your school newsletter to promote easy water saving ideas and get the whole family involved.
- Do you have assemblies that you invite parents along to? Why not have a water themed assembly and get the children to share their Ripple Effect pledges with everyone?
- You could even get classes or year groups to compete to save the most water!

We would be delighted to hear about the water saving adventures that go on in the school after you have delivered your assembly. Schools can share any water related questions, photos of the visit and children's activities or water posters with us on savingwater@nwl.co.uk.

To deliver the different activities confidently, we recommend exploring the resources before your school visit.

If you have any questions about the presentation, please contact **Sarah Bowerman** or **Tim Wagstaff** in the Water Efficiency team.

To make sure there is a high level of consistency in delivery of this assembly, please follow the guide below. There is an opportunity for you to share your Northumbrian Water Group story within the presentation. We know that the children will enjoy hearing about your essential skills and Northumbrian Water Group experiences.

Please note, the assembly presentation will require sound.

ONLY HAVE A SHORT AMOUNT OF TIME AVAILABLE FOR YOUR RIPPLE EFFECT ASSEMBLY?

The other elements of the assembly can be covered during classtime.

Welcome and Introductions: 5 minutes

Why not consider playing The Ripple Effect song as your children come into assembly?

The Water Tracker Story: 20 minutes

The Ripple Effect Pledge: 10 minutes



ASSEMBLY ACTIVITIES AND TIMINGS

Welcome and introductions

Timing: 5 minutes

- Welcome the children to your special assembly.
- Introduce yourself to the children. You can share:
 - Your name
 - Your role at Northumbrian Water Group
 - A very short explanation of what your role involved (keep it short here as there is time later in the presentation to share more information)
- Tell the children that you are all going to be exploring our most precious resource: water
- To introduce the assembly you may want to say:

“The assembly today is about The Ripple Effect.

The Ripple effect is all about making positive changes to the way you, your family and friends use water.

If we all make small changes to the way we use water, we can make big waves in protecting our water supply.

To join The Ripple Effect, you need to get trained up to become a Water Tracker and you are all going to take your first steps in learning to become a Water Tracker today!

You're going to do this by taking your Ripple Effect pledge, this is a special promise that all Water Trackers take at the start of their Water Tracker training... Water Trackers are Guardians of the Water Cycle who also happen to be normal people!

Before we start our Water Tracker adventures, we need to learn a little bit more about why we need to protect our water cycle and what Water Trackers spend their time doing.”

- Ask the pupils to think of ways they have used water today.
- Allow a small number of children (three maximum) to share their answers.
- Bring up The Water Tracker Story on the whiteboard. Tell the pupils to pay close attention to the story as you will ask them questions about it at the end... you may want to tell them that this is part of their Water Tracker training!

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THE WATER TRACKER STORY

Timing: 20 minutes

- Open up the story slides on the presentation. Choose if you would like to read the story yourself, using the script or if you would like to use the provided audio book and press play on each slide.
 - Ask the children to listen carefully to the story and to put their hand up each time they think water is being wasted (the children only need to raise their hands, no need for them to say anything at this point).
 - You might want to say " Now we're going to dip our toes into the world of the Wayster Family and The Water Trackers. As you listen to the story, each time you think someone is wasting water I want you to raise your hand. If you like, try and keep count how many times you put your hands up. This is part of your Ripple Effect training and will give you an idea of the sorts of things Water Trackers do to help protect our water supply. Ready? We're going to hear from Will Wayster who is getting really fed up with his family. Let's find out more."
 - After Will gets soaked by the sprinkler there's an opportunity to have a short break in the story to reflect on the amount of water waste going on in the Wayster family. You might want to say " Well... I have seen lots of hands going up. Did anyone manage to keep track of how many times water was being wasted?" Allow the children to raise their hands, again no need to share answers at this point, there are questions at the end of the story. There were lots of examples of water waste weren't there. Let's keep on going." Then continue with the rest of the story.
- Once you get to the end of the story it's time to test the children's knowledge. Ask the following questions giving support if required. If you are short for time you can choose to ask fewer questions.
1. Can anyone think of a way that the Wayster family were wasting water?
Answer: Any of the following answers are correct:
 - Winnie was fake tanning while leaving the shower running
 - Whitney left the tap on while brushing her teeth
 - Mum had left the tap running while washing vegetables
 - Warren had put the washing machine on with only one pair of jeans in it
 - Wes was using the hose to wash his motorbike
 - Gramps always uses the big flush
 - Dad was using the sprinkler to water the lawn
 2. We heard that a sprinkler uses a huge amount of water each hour. Can anyone remember how much?
Answer: A sprinkler uses 1,000 litres of water a day.

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3. The Water Trackers point out that some parts of the UK are drier than two countries. Can you remember which countries?

Answer: Brazil and Puerto Rico have more rainfall than the UK.

4. The Waysters were using a lot of water every day. Will told them it was the same as how many bathtubs of water?

Answer: The Waysters were using the equivalent of 1,500 litres a day as a family - about 20 bathtubs.

5. Can you think of a way that the Wayster family decide to save more water?

Answer: Any of the following answers are correct:

- Mum and Whitney plan to turn the tap off when washing vegetables or brushing teeth
- Winnie is going to cut down showers and put the timer on for four minutes.
- Gramps is going to use the small flush
- Dad is going to stop using the sprinkler (he's going to use collected rainwater from a water butt)
- The little kids are going to use water blasters to water the vegetable beds
- Once the children have answered all of the questions, congratulate them and then tell them they are going to test their skills and knowledge even further by playing a game.



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ACTIVITY ZONE

Timing: 10 minutes

- Congratulate the pupils on their correct guesses. Tell them that it's now time to test their skills and knowledge about the water cycle further.
- The pupils have now entered the Game Zone. Refer to the separate Game Guide for timings, resources and delivery support.



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HOW MANY BUCKETS?

Time for activity
10 minutes

Resources required

- Presentation
- Beanbags, multi-link cubes or dienes (each team will need 15 beanbags, multi-link cubes or dienes so this may limit the amount of teams you can have).
- Buckets for the children to put the beanbags, multi-link cubes or dienes in (this could also be a hula hoop on the ground that the children need to place their beanbags or alternatives in).

Objective of the game
The aim of the game is for the children to develop a clear idea of how much water everyday activities use.

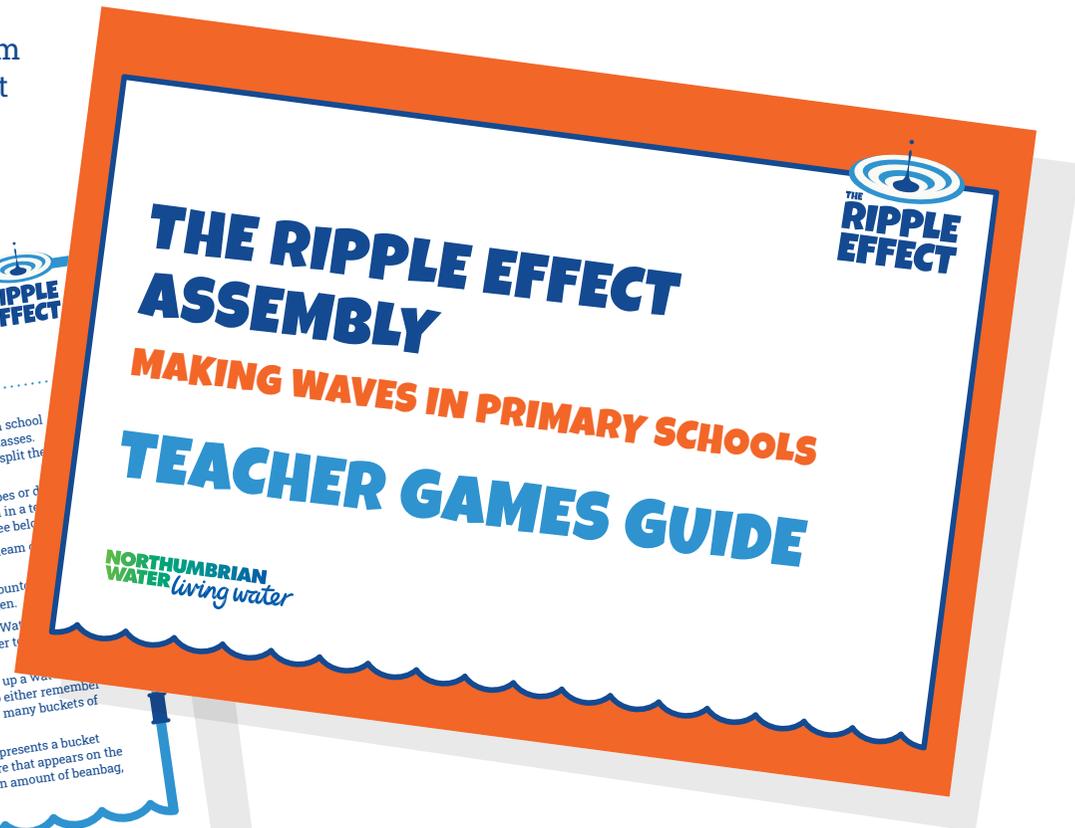
Top tips for delivery
This game can be noisy so establish clear rules that once you start a verbal countdown 5-4-3-2-1, the teams need to quieten down quickly.

Steps for delivery

- Split the pupils into teams, this could be through a school house system or simply through year groups or classes. With large numbers of children it may be best to split the according to where they are sitting in the room.
- Each team will need 15 beanbags, multi-link cubes or dienes each. It's fine to have a large number of children in a team as long as they know who their team captain is (see below).
- Choose a team captain for each team. Ask the team captain to stand at the front of the room.
- You may want to demonstrate how you will count down 5-4-3-2-1 and everyone should be ready to listen.
- Remind the children that this is part of their Water Cycle training and that they need to do well in order to complete their Ripple Effect pledge.
- Tell the children that you are going to bring up a picture of an activity on the screen and they will need to either remember or guess (from the story or their prior learning) how many buckets of water are used or wasted in that activity.
- Each beanbag, multi-link cube or diene represents a bucket of water which is 10 litres. For each picture that appears on the screen the children will need to choose an amount of beanbag,

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TEACHER GAMES GUIDE

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ALL ABOUT ME

Timing: 5 minutes

This is an opportunity for you to share some more information about how you found your way into your role at NWG.

We recommend that you share:

- What an average day might look like for you.
- What are your favourite aspects of the job?
- What are the most challenging aspects of the job?
- What makes you good at your job?

Please remember not to use jargon or complex vocabulary with the children – if you do need to use technical language, please accompany it with a child friendly explanation.

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THE WATER TRACKERS SONG

Timing: 5 minutes

- Tell the pupils that they are doing really well and are clearly learning lots about using water wisely and protecting the water cycle. They are nearly ready to take their Ripple Effect Pledge.
- Let the children know that to launch the ceremony, you need to play a special song that will help them remember some important water facts and easy ways to save water.
- Bring the words up on the screen and press the play button and invite the children to join in if they wish.
- The Ripple Effect Song is super catchy – you could recommend that the children play the song at home (it could be linked in the school newsletter) this will also mean that parents and carers will learn some interesting water efficiency facts!





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THE RIPPLE EFFECT PLEDGE

Timing: 10 minutes

- Congratulate the pupils on the learning that they have achieved during the assembly.
- Ask them to turn to the person next to them or to have a think by themselves about their favourite bit of the assembly, was it the story? The game? The song? The animation?
- Now it's time to get ready to make The Ripple Effect pledge, this will be the pupils' first steps on the way to becoming a fully fledged Water Tracker.
- To make The Ripple Effect pledge, the children need to make a special promise to :
 - Make positive changes to the way they use water.
 - Use their Ripple Effect knowledge to help other people.
- Again ask the pupils to have a think by themselves or to chat to the people around them and to come up with all of the different ways they can save water at home. This could be anything from taking shorter showers, not filling the bath all the way up to the top, never leaving the tap running when they are brushing their teeth (there will be examples on the screen).
- Ask some of the children to share their answers.
- Once the children have shared some ideas, tell them that in addition to their individual pledges that they are also going to make a class (or school) pledge: not leaving the tap running when brushing teeth.
- Ask now for the pupils to turn their attention to the second part of the pledge, who are they going to share their knowledge with? Can they help one other person to make the same positive changes? Ask the children to think about this for a short time by themselves.
- To make the pledge, ask your pupils to stand up (if it's safe to do so) and move the presentation to the celebration page. Ask everyone to adopt a suitable Water Tracker stance – this can be a superhero pose or the children can make a V shape with their fingers (palms facing forward) and bring them together to make a W shape! Once they are in position, they can all join in together in making their Ripple Effect Pledge. You could also have the water song on in the background. Making The Ripple Effect Pledge is a great photo and/or video opportunity, this can be used in school and shared with parents. Northumbrian Water Group would also be delighted to receive content related to your pledges you can send any content to savingwater@nwl.co.uk.

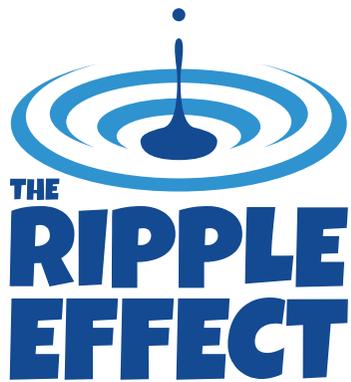
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- Ask the pupils to repeat after you: 'I agree to make positive changes to the way I use water. I will always turn the tap off when I am brushing my teeth'. We recommend you split this up into shorter phrases to help the children join in with you.
- As a group celebrate The Ripple Effect Pledge with a round of applause.
- The final slide of the presentation shows some of the highlights from the other Water Tracker resources such as the Water Impact calculator, the water action badge activities and Amie's water diary from Arizona in America.
- To close the assembly you may want to play the Water Song again as the children return to their classrooms.
- Don't forget to remind teachers that our Ripple Effect Pledge certificate can be downloaded from the website. The certificates can be personalised by the pupils and kept as digital certificates or printed out and then sent home.





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