

Water Essay 2021

By Katie Ferrell

Water is essential for life. Humans need clean water to survive, and we need a lot of it! The average metro Atlantan uses about 50 gallons of water each day. It's not enough to just have water, though. We need clean water to stay healthy and prevent the spread of water-borne disease. Because we need clean, abundant water, it is important to conserve the water we have so that it is available to everyone who needs it, especially because of metro Atlanta's unique water supply and lack of groundwater.

First, humans need clean water to survive. Water that has not been cleaned contains dirt and bacteria that can cause serious and even fatal disease. These diseases are prevalent in countries that don't have access to clean drinking water, and an estimated 405,000 people die each year from drinking contaminated water. We use water to wash ourselves, our clothes, and our dishes. We cannot do this using dirty or contaminated water. We need clean water simply because if we don't have it, we could die.

Second, humans need an abundance of water. The human body is approximately 60% water, so we obviously need water for drinking. We also use water to clean, cook, flush toilets, and wash many things. Water is used commercially for creating food, energy, heat, chemicals, and paper. It is also used to process, wash, cool, and transport products. We use an abundance of water because it keeps us and our homes clean, provides energy, and keeps us alive.

Due to our need for clean and abundant water, it is crucial for us to conserve the water that we have and not use more than necessary, especially for people in the metro Atlanta area. One reason for this is that Atlanta was meant to be a transportation hub, so access to railroads was more important than access to a large supply of water. Second, metro Atlanta is located on a

thick layer of bedrock, making groundwater account for only 1% of metro Atlanta's water supply. This makes the area rely almost entirely on surface water from sources such as the Chattahoochee River and Lake Lanier. Fortunately, we are going in the right direction. Despite a population increase of 1.3 million people since 2001, water use has gone down 10%. Even though this is great, it is still critical that we work together to conserve water and take good care of our natural resources.

Clearly, a clean, abundant water supply is essential for human life. Since we use water for many things, it is important that our water is clean and free from contamination. It is critical to conserve water, especially as metro Atlanta's water supply relies almost solely on surface water. While we are going in the right direction, it is still vital to work hard to conserve water in an effort to care for the environment and keep clean water available for everyone in the metro Atlanta area.

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