



Only Tap Water **Delivers**[®]

Drinking Water
Week 2010

"We don't often pause to consider the incredible value of a safe, reliable water supply — and the water system that delivers it — in our everyday lives. But consider what tap water does that no other water can do."

Only Tap Water Delivers ...

... public health protection.

In a world where an estimated 3 million people die every year from preventable waterborne disease, our water systems allow us to drink from virtually any public tap with a high assurance of safety. Each community water supply must meet rigorous federal and state health-protective standards.

... fire protection.

A well-maintained water system is critical in protecting our communities from the ever-present threat of fire. A system that provides reliable water at an adequate pressure can be the difference between a small fire and an urban inferno. The ability to suppress fires also influences new home construction, business location decisions and insurance rates.

... support for the economy.

Businesses or housing developments do not succeed without a safe and sustainable water supply. Tap water is critical to businesses' day-to-day operations and is often a primary ingredient in the products they create. The incredible value of water is magnified during times of drought and when populations expand into arid climates.

... the overall quality of life we enjoy.

Any measure of a successful society — low mortality rates, economic diversity, productivity, and public safety — is in some way related to access to safe water. In North America, we take for granted that safe water is always accessible to drink, to wash our clothes, to water our lawns and for a myriad of other purposes. When water service is interrupted, we're all reminded of the extraordinary value of water resources and service.



**American Water Works
Association**

The Authoritative Resource on Safe Water[®]



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Water Infrastructure at a Turning Point

Throughout North America, water pipes running below our streets are in need of replacement. It's time to bring the conversation about water infrastructure above ground.

- The million miles of water pipes below our streets represent an enormous public trust largely built and paid for by earlier generations.
- Much of the water infrastructure below our streets was constructed during three periods: the late 1800s, the Roaring 1920s and during the Post World War II baby boom.
- The pipes from these different eras are due to wear out concurrently over the next three decades.
- In the United States alone, the cost of replacing water infrastructure in the next 30 years will top \$250 billion, according to a 2001 study by the American Water Works Association.
- The expense of replacing water infrastructure will be met mostly through higher water rates that better reflect the full cost of the service.
- The stewardship of our buried water pipes falls to us. Reinvesting in water infrastructure will prevent today's concerns from becoming a crisis in the future.

We are at the 'Dawn of the Replacement Era'

- An extensive American Water Works Association study of 20 large and medium utilities suggests that by 2030 the average utility will spend about three and a half times as much on pipe replacement as it does today.
- The average household served by large and medium utilities will have to spend between \$550 and \$2,300 over 30 years to meet repair and replacement costs.
- Households served by small water systems will be impacted two or three times greater than larger systems, since there are fewer people to pay the costs.
- Communities that begin addressing water infrastructure today will avoid "rate shock" in the future.



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10 Conservation Tips to Remember

1. Don't leave the sink running while you brush your teeth.
2. Fully load the dishwasher and clothes washer before running them.
3. When washing dishes by hand, don't let the water run.
4. Repair dripping faucets and leaky toilets. Dripping faucets can waste up to 2,000 gallons of water each year in the average home. Leaky toilets can waste as much as 200 gallons per day.
5. Install water-efficient appliances in your home. Look for the EPA WaterSense labels, and check with your local water system to see if they offer rebates.
6. Don't over-water your lawn, and water early in the morning or at night to avoid excess evaporation.
7. When the driveway or sidewalk needs cleaning, consider a broom instead of a hose. It can save up to 80 gallons of water.
8. If you have a swimming pool, use a cover. You will cut the loss of water by evaporation by 90 percent.
9. Help preserve the quality of the available water supply by not overusing pesticides and fertilizers, avoiding flushing medications down the toilet or sink, and disposing of hazardous materials properly.
10. Place rain barrels beneath your downspouts. The rainwater can be used for outdoor plants and trees or to wash a car.

For more information on your water resources and EPA's Water Sense program, visit www.drinktap.org.



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Help the
water travel from the
water treatment plant
to your house!

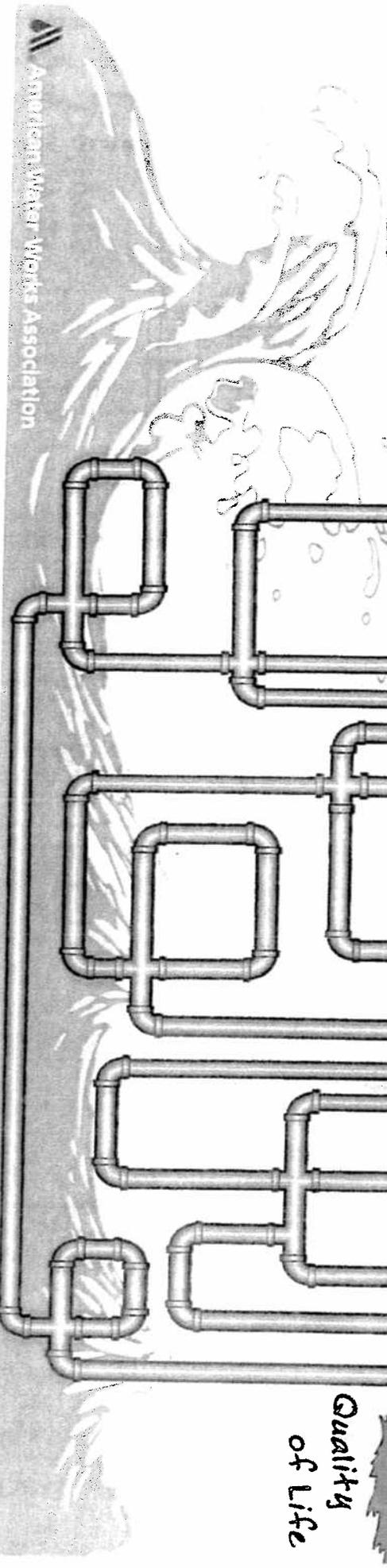
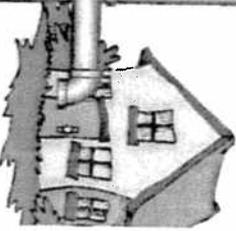
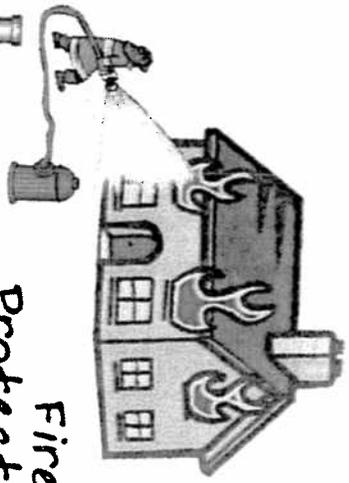
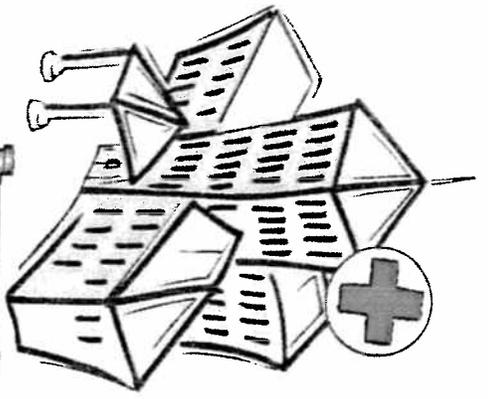
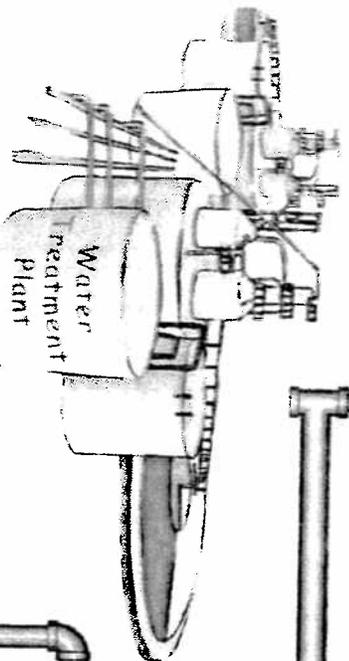
Support for
the Economy

Public Health
Protection

Infrastructure
Maze

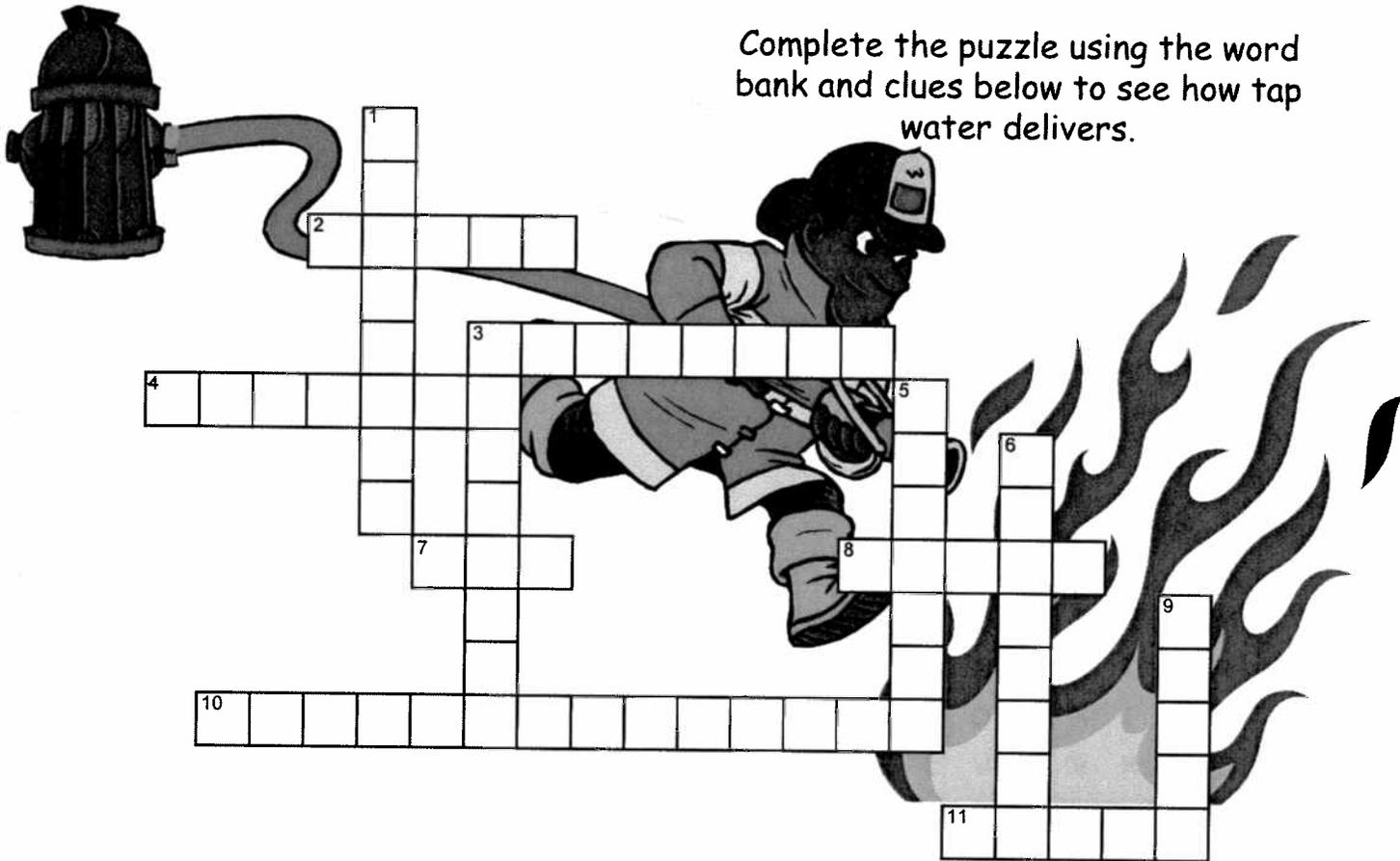
Fire
Protection

End
Quality
of Life



CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Complete the puzzle using the word bank and clues below to see how tap water delivers.



tap pumps leaks hydrated water fluoride infrastructure bills utility potable pressure hydrants

Across

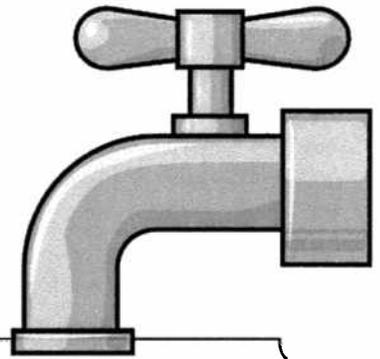
2. Water flows to fire hydrants through a system of water mains, storage tanks, and _____.
3. Drinking enough water every day keeps us healthy and _____.
4. The company that maintains and delivers our tap water is called a water _____.
7. What kind of water delivers fire protection and safe drinking water?
8. What is the main ingredient in common products like canned foods and soft drinks?
10. The network of water pipes below the ground is sometimes called the water _____.
11. _____ in the infrastructure can result in wasted water.

Down

1. What do many water systems add to their water to prevent tooth decay?
3. Water that firefighters use to fight fires sometimes comes from _____.
5. Tap water in the United States and Canada is suitable for drinking and is sometimes called _____ water.
6. A break in a water main can cause a drop in water _____.
9. People pay water _____ to help maintain their water systems.

TRUE FALSE QUIZ

Some of these statements are true.
Some are not.
Can you find all the true statements?



Circle T for True and F for False

1. Most of the time, the water from fire hydrants and home faucets goes through the same system of water mains, pumps, and storage tanks.
2. Firefighters need water to come out of hydrants at a high pressure.
3. Water pipes that run underground last forever and don't need to be replaced.
4. Many water utilities in North America add fluoride to their water to prevent tooth decay.
5. A well-maintained water delivery system has fewer leaks.
6. Community water providers do not need to meet strict federal and state water quality standards.
7. The infrastructure of the water system includes the people who use the water, like families, businesses, and firefighters.
8. Most businesses do not succeed without a safe and reliable water supply.
9. Most tap water in the United States and Canada is not safe to drink.
10. Most of the water pipes that run underground were built in the last ten years.
11. A break in a water main will never affect fire hydrants.

| | |
|---|---|
| T | F |
| T | F |
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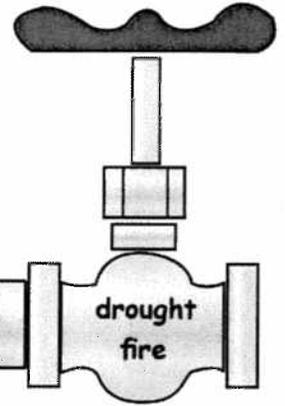
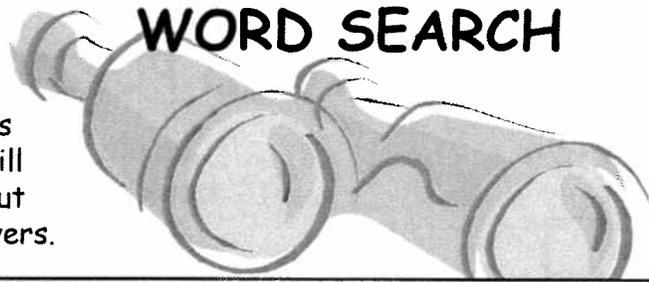
- Answers for statements that are false:
3. The infrastructure of the water system, such as pipes and pumps, wear out and need to be repaired or replaced over time.
 6. In the United States, water utilities must meet close to 100 national rules for water quality, and there are additional rules in many states. Canadian provinces have similar rules.
 7. The water system infrastructure means the "pieces" of the water delivery system: the pipes, pumps, tanks, and water mains that deliver water safely to our faucets.
 9. Tap water in North America is among the safest in the world. Our high standards for water quality prevent waterborne diseases that afflict people in many developing countries.
 10. Many of the water mains and pipes in North America are more than 50 years old, and sometimes more than 100 years old.
 11. A water main break could reduce the pressure of water coming out of a fire hydrant, which makes it harder for a firefighter to put out a fire.

Answer key: 1 T; 2 T; 3 F; 4 T; 5 T; 6 F; 7 F; 8 T; 9 F; 10 F; 11 F

Only Tap Water Delivers

WORD SEARCH

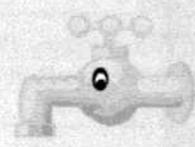
Using the clues below, see if you can find words in the word bank that will help you learn more about how only tap water delivers.



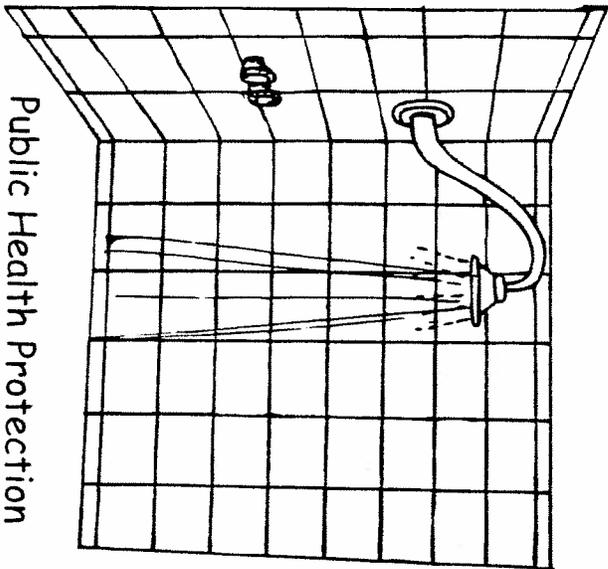
| | | | | |
|---------------|---------|-----------------|----------------|---------|
| fire hydrants | economy | quality | infrastructure | drought |
| United States | billion | fire protection | safety | fire |

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

- Clues**
1. Our local water utility maintains *fire hydrants*.
 2. A period of time with little or no rainfall is called a *drought*.
 3. Pipes run underground and make up the *infrastructure* of the water system.
 4. Tap water protects us against the threat of *fire*.
 5. Safe tap water contributes to quality of life by increasing productivity and *safety*.
 6. Water utilities provide their customers with a report on the *quality* of their drinking water each year.
 7. Did you know that the first water systems in North America were built to provide *fire protection*?
 8. Only tap water delivers public health protection, fire protection, support for the *economy*, and the quality of life we enjoy.
 9. Replacing old pipes in the United States is expected to cost more than 250 *billion* dollars over the next 20 years.
 10. In 2004, U.S. fire departments responded to over one million fires across the *United States*.



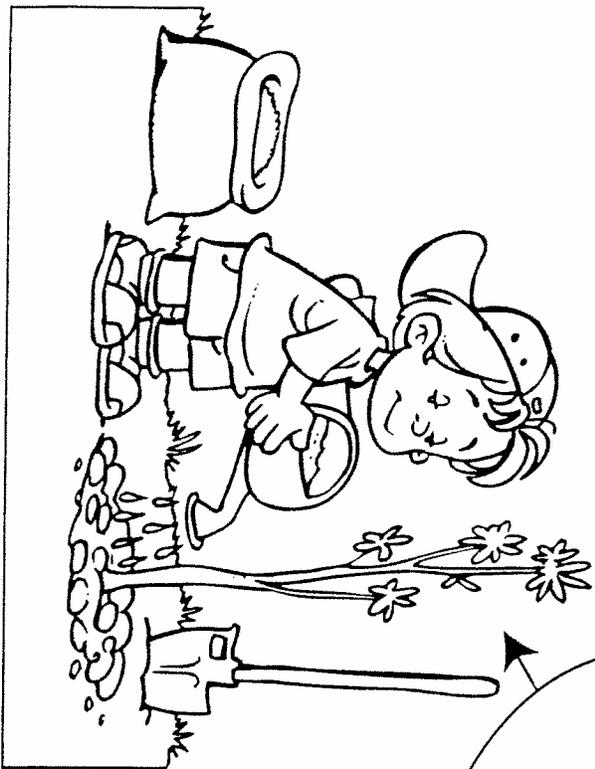
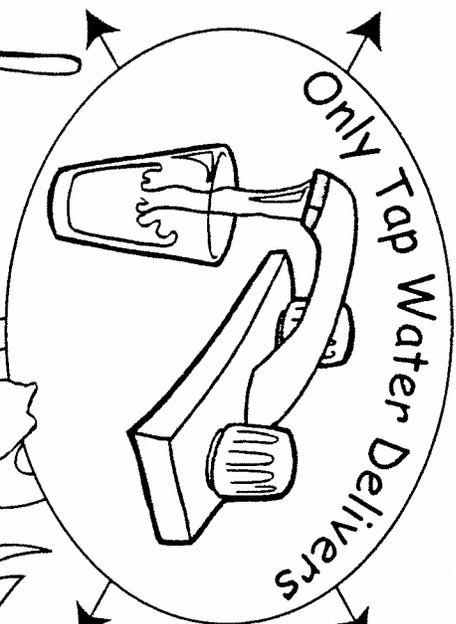
Only Tap Water Delivers



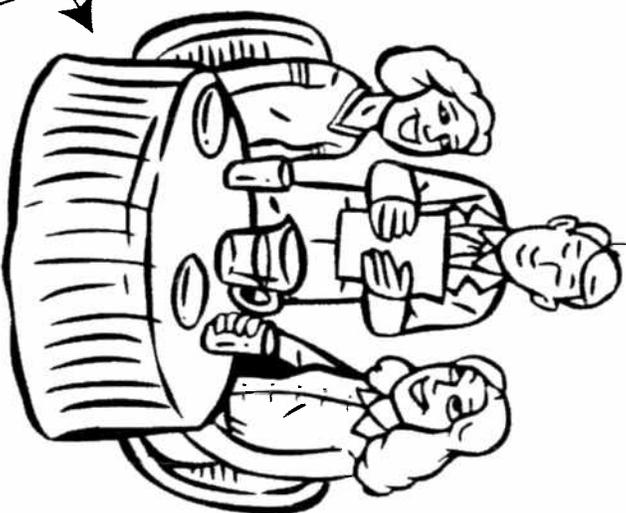
Public Health Protection

COLOR SHEET

Color these examples
of ways we use water daily.
Can you think of
more ways that tap
water delivers?



Quality of Life



Support for the Economy



Fire Protection