

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

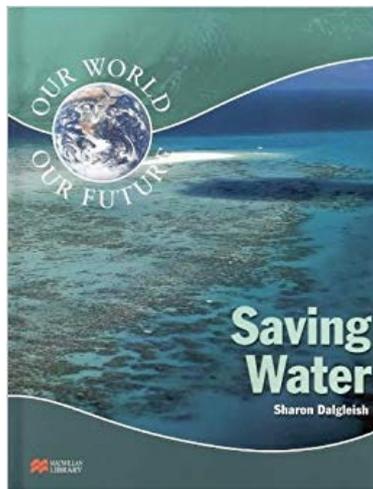
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Dalglish, S. (2002). *Saving water*. South Yarra, Vic: Macmillan Education Australia.

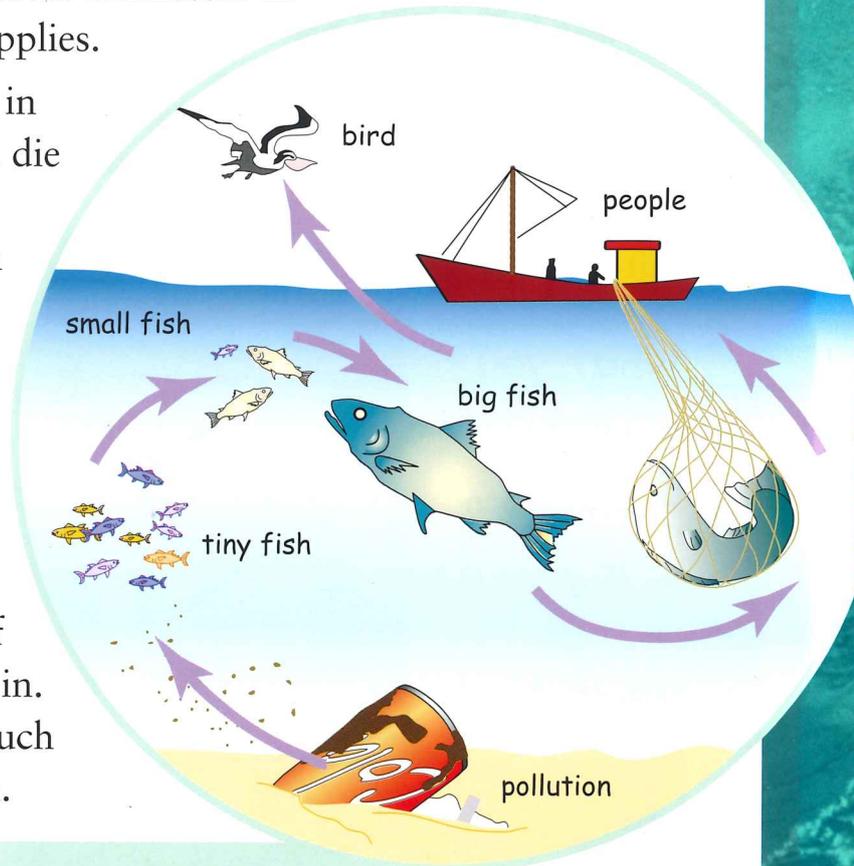
Drinking unsafe water



About 10 million people die every year from diseases carried in dirty drinking water. About 80 per cent of all sicknesses in our world are caused by unsafe water supplies.

In many parts of the world, especially in developing countries, people get sick and die because the water they drink is dirty and contains bacteria. When there is no clean water to drink, people have to drink the dirty water or die of thirst.

Our world is full of food chains. Small animals are eaten by bigger animals, which in turn are eaten by even bigger animals. The poisonous chemicals that are in tiny amounts at the bottom of the chain collect as they move up the chain. So the animals at the top of the chain—such as people—get the biggest dose of poison.



► The animal at the top of the chain has much more of the poison in every gram of its body weight than the animal at the bottom.

YOU CAN DO IT!

- Do not drop rubbish in the street.
- Use fewer chemical detergents and cleaners. Soap gets water dirty, not clean.
- Reuse plastic bags as many times as possible.
- Recycle as much as you can. If there is less waste to deal with overall we will have more time to work out ways of dealing with dangerous waste.

READ MORE ABOUT:



- the water cycle on page 7
- pollution of underground water on page 20.