

Welcome to *H2O Today* where we can learn all about water and how people use it in our country, state, and in your own town. Use this guide to explore the exhibit in more detail.

Find This Picture

The woman in this picture is measuring rain with a rain gauge. A rain gauge measures how many inches have fallen in a certain time period. Less than half of Utah's thirteen inches of annual precipitation falls as rain! In the United States, only Nevada has less rainfall than Utah.

THINK: If only half the precipitation is rain, where does the other half come from? Try an experiment: write down all the days it rains next month at your house. Multiply that number by 12 to see an approximation of days it rains in your neighborhood per year. Of course, there are different seasons with different amounts of rainfall. So then how could you get a more accurate count of rainy days?



Measuring rain, 1932. Utah State Historical Society.

Date:	Did it Rain? Y or N	Inches of rain measured	Date:	Did it Rain? Y or N	Inches of rain measured

Find A World Born of Water Section in the Exhibition

Read the Native Peoples creation stories. What does water have to do with each of these stories? Do you have a family story about water?

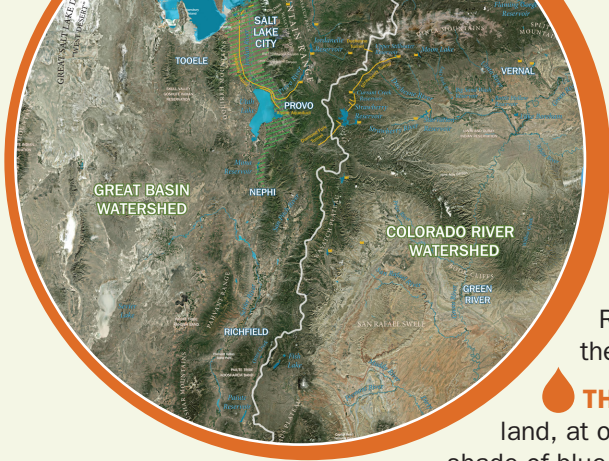
THINK: If you live in the United States you are living on traditional land of Native Peoples. When you leave here, try to find out who used to live where you live. Center your exploration on how they used water. Learning about all the people who lived on the land before you is a great way to learn the history of your home.

Let's Be Creative

Find the poetry wall in the exhibition. Read the poem "The Negro Speaks of Rivers" by Langston Hughes. Have you heard of all the rivers mentioned in Hughes's poem? You can create your own poem about water using the magnetic words on the wall. Are there any water words that you can't find and wish were there?

THINK: Write down the poem you created on the wall or make a new one with new words. Read it out loud to a friend.

PLACE
STAMP
HERE



Where Does Your Water Come From?

There is a big map of Utah on the floor in this gallery. If you live in Utah, find your hometown and stand on it. Which watershed do you live in: the Great Basin or the Colorado River? Now find one question around the map. Read it aloud with someone you are with. Do you both have the same answer or a different one?

THINK: No matter where your water comes from on the land, at one point it came from the sky. Did you know that the sky's shade of blue is determined by how much water or humidity is in the air?

That is why Utah's dry desert skies are such a deep blue! You can see for yourself – find the picture of Delicate Arch in Southern Utah in the exhibition and notice the sky color.

Experiment with a Cyanometer

A scientific instrument invented over 200 years ago called a *cyanometer* measures the blue of the sky. To the right is a cyanometer for you to use. Hold it up to the sky and match the shade of blue, do you think there is a lot of humidity in the air (light blue)? Or is the air very dry (dark blue)? **HINT:** You can even match the color of the sky to help you remember the color in order to draw or paint a landscape!

Water Is a Rare and Precious Resource

Find the section called *Use it or Lose it* and read all about water as a precious resource. Did you know Utahns use 178 gallons of water per day? That is second in the nation for most water used!

What do you think we can do to reduce our water use in order to conserve this important resource? Think of one idea, then send a letter to your state representative telling them about it. **HINT:** you can use the postcard below to send your message!

THINK about your own connection with water. In what ways do you use water every day? Do you ever play in it? Have you ever drawn or painted water? Artists have been inspired by water for centuries, and you can be too!

DRY
↑
↓
HUMID



Take this guide home with you and try drawing water on the detachable postcard below. You can use any drawing material: pencils, crayons, pens, or whatever you have. You can even make your own watercolors from supplies in your cupboards. **Find out how here:** umfa.utah.edu/watercolor-landscapes.

Your drawing can be water in any form or place. Use your imagination! Then send the postcard to a friend or your town government with a note including your ideas about water. You could even send it to your state representative! **HINT:** Find who your representative is here: house.utah.gov.

Here are Some Tips for Drawing Water:

- Some water is like a mirror and reflects the colors and forms that are around it. Look around and see what is being reflected.
- Reflected images in water are darker than the real object. Try drawing reflections a shade darker.
- Some water is opaque but has many layers of color. Try layering colors to get the same effect.
- If your water is moving, try drawing the motion of the water in a line then adding shade or color later.



H2O Today is organized by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service, and is touring Utah in partnership with Utah Humanities and local host organizations. The tour is part of *Think Water Utah*, a statewide collaboration and conversation on the critical topic of water presented by Utah Humanities and its partners.

For more information, see www.utahhumanities.org

#ThinkWaterUtah



#IdeasInAction