crops to feed cattle and other livestock, growing cotton for fabric and clothing, watering the lawn and garden, washing the car, taking a bath or shower, brushing teeth, doing the dishes, cleaning the house, washing clothes, filling swimming pools and artificial lakes, watering golf courses, making ice, making ice skating rinks, and many other uses.

Water gets recycled through a process called transpiration. That means that the heat of the sun evaporates water into the sky. When enough water evaporates, it forms into a cloud that drops rain onto the earth. Most of this rain falls into the ocean, but some of it falls onto our mountains, rivers and streams, replenishing our fresh water supply. This endless recycling of water is how the Earth has maintained its fresh water for millions and millions of years. In fact, it's possible that the last soda you drank contained water that was once drunk by a Tyrannosaurus Rex!

Even though it seems like we have an endless supply of water, we don't. At this point in history, human beings are using up fresh water faster than it is being replenished. It's possible that we could run out of fresh, clean water at some point in the future if we don't get wiser about how we use this precious resource. Not only that, but much of our fresh water is being polluted with toxins or chemicals that are being dumped and drained into our water systems. Some of these chemicals are common household items like chlorine bleach and paint thinner, and some are widely used agricultural and industrial chemicals like petroleum products and pesticides. If human beings only dumped a tiny bit of these chemicals into our fresh water systems, it wouldn't cause much damage. Unfortunately, tons of chemicals are being dumped and washed into our water every year. This water pollution is not only damaging the environment, animals, birds and fish that depend on a healthy water system, but it is also harming our fresh water supply and making some people sick.

Fresh, clean water is the most important natural resource we have. There are many things we can do to conserve our fresh water supply. Learn more about how to save water and protect it from harmful chemicals. By doing our best today, we can make sure there's plenty of clean, fresh water left for our future.