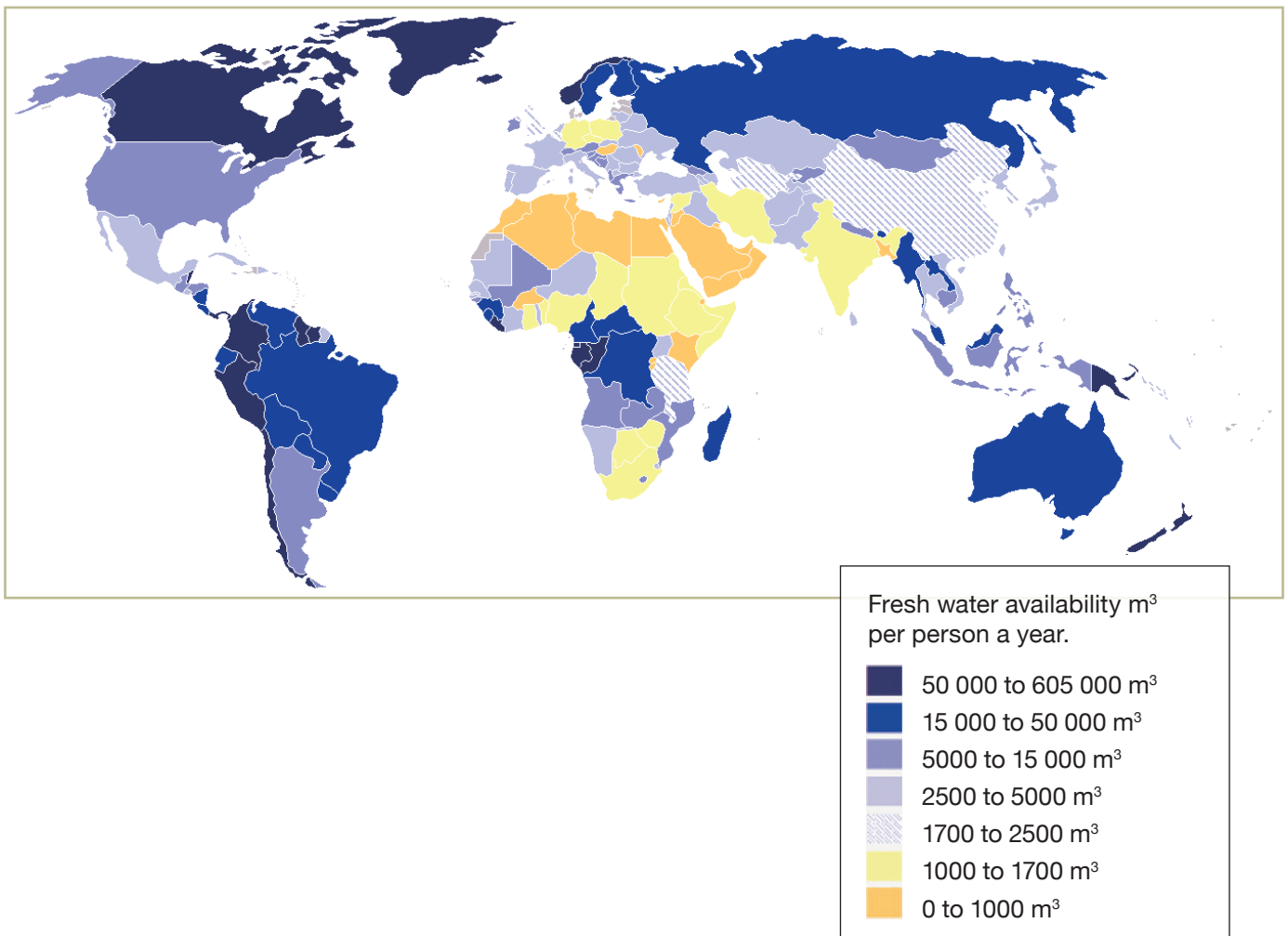


A resource to protect

Fresh water on our planet represents only 3% of total water and only 1% of it is available for man; just 0,008% is clean water! Moreover water is unevenly distributed on earth: there are areas where it is abundant, others where it is scarce. In Canada, for example, every family uses 350 litres of water every day; in wide areas of Africa a family can only use 20 litres a day. The World Health Organization has agreed that 50 litres a day per human being have to be considered as an acceptable quantity.

Nowadays about one third of the world population lives in a “water crisis” country, that means that there isn’t enough clean water for everybody.

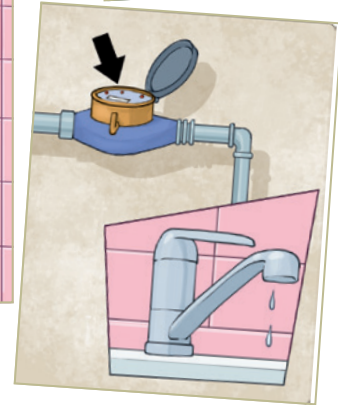
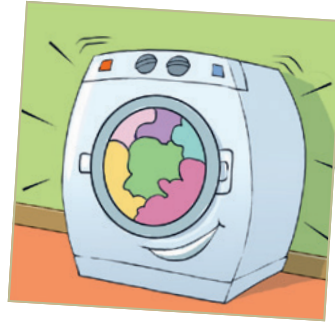
The United Nations Committee on Economic, Cultural and Social Rights stated that “*water is fundamental for life and health. The human right to water is indispensable for leading a healthy life in human dignity. It is a pre-requisite to the realisation of all other human rights*”.



Six golden rules to save water

Here are some tips on how to limit waste and misuse of such an important resource:

1. have a shower instead of a bath and turn off the shower after soaping up (same rule for brushing your teeth);
2. do not use too much soap or too many detergents (only bio-based ones) so that not too much water is needed to rinse;
3. use your dishwasher and washing machine for only full loads;
4. when washing dishes by hand, fill a basin with soapy water and use running water quickly and only for rinsing under a slow-moving stream;
5. install a low-flowing water saving device in your toilet tank to cut down on the amount of water needed for each flushing;
6. check your water system for leaks and make sure that when taps are off the water meter doesn't operate.



Did you know?

Italy is the European country that consumes the largest quantity of water after Canada and the USA!

Answer the following questions.

1. What can you do at home to save water?
2. Who are the largest consumers of water in the world?
3. Why do some countries have great quantities of water but their population cannot properly benefit from that?
4. Why do we have to protect the water resources on our planet?
5. Where can you find fresh water?
6. Can you explain the United Nations Committee's statement with your own words?