

World Water Day 2013



International Year of Water Cooperation

22 March

An international day to celebrate freshwater was recommended at the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED).

The United Nations General Assembly responded by designating 22 March 1993 as the first World Water Day.

International Year of Water Cooperation

22 March

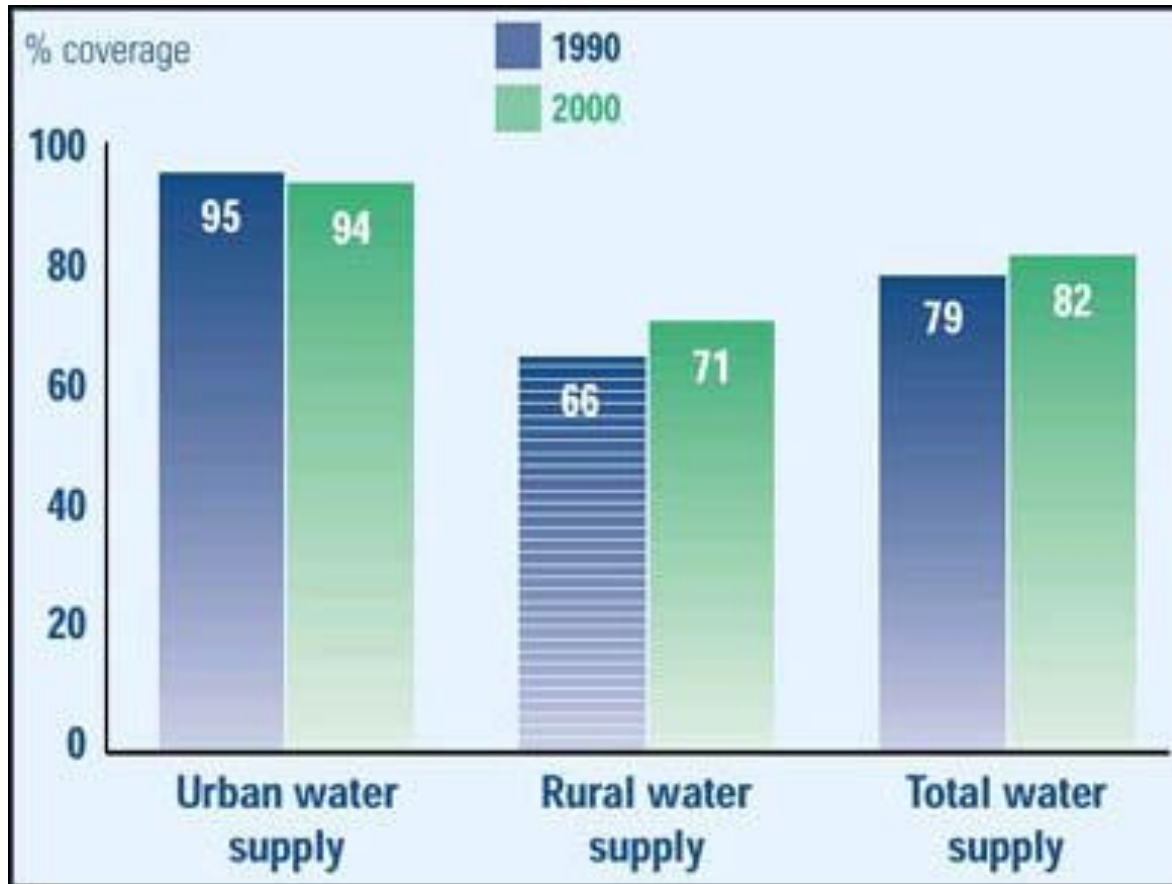
Each year, World Water Day highlights a specific aspect of freshwater. In 2013, in reflection of the [International Year of Water Cooperation](#), World Water Day is also dedicated to the theme of cooperation around water and is coordinated by UNESCO in collaboration with UNECE and UNDESA on behalf of UN-Water.

Information source: <http://www.unwater.org/water-cooperation-2013/events/world-water-day/en>

Water is life !

- Water has played a critical role in survival ever since,
- Our bodies also use water to flush out toxins, regulate body temperature and aid our metabolism,
- Water can also exist as a vapor, it can be stored in the atmosphere and be delivered as rain across the planet. Earth's oceans also help regulate the planet's [climate](#)

Water statistics



WATER & CULTURE

- Due to its fundamental role in society's life, water has a strong cultural dimension. Without understanding and considering the cultural aspects of our water problems, no sustainable solution can be found.”

Session Water and Cultural Diversity, Statement to the Ministerial Conference, 3rd World Water Forum, 22 March 2003

http://www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/Water&cultureEnglishv2.pdf

843,000
have no access
to clean water

Water and language

- Water features in a range of colloquialisms and expressions used around the world.
- For example, an English speaker will make a preliminary assessment of a situation if they 'test the water'. They might be 'in over their heads' or 'all at sea' if they are not able to handle a situation. Or 'in hot water' if they are in trouble. If they lose their resolve, they might 'go to water'. They might be 'above water' if they are out of trouble or embarrassment. If a situation is in the past, it could be 'water under the bridge'.
- An English speaker may also be a 'water baby'. They may have cause to 'water down' a situation.

<http://www.abc.net.au/water/stories/s1598082.htm>

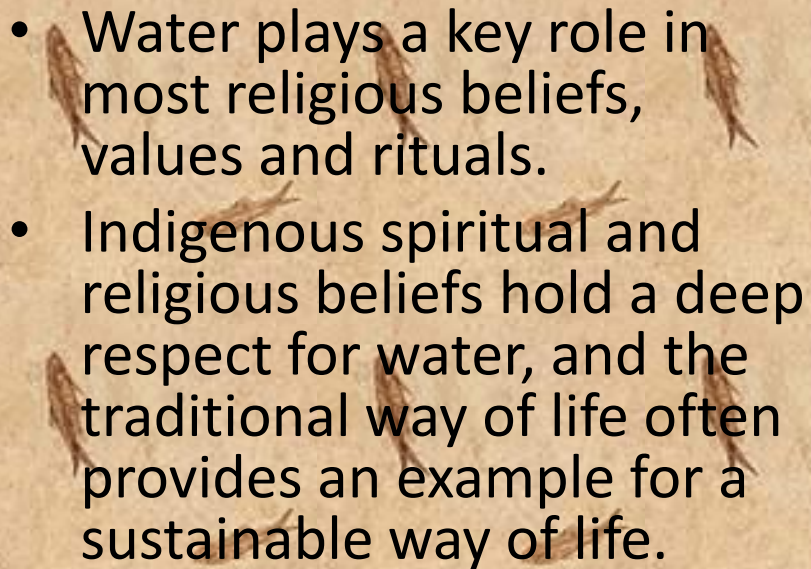


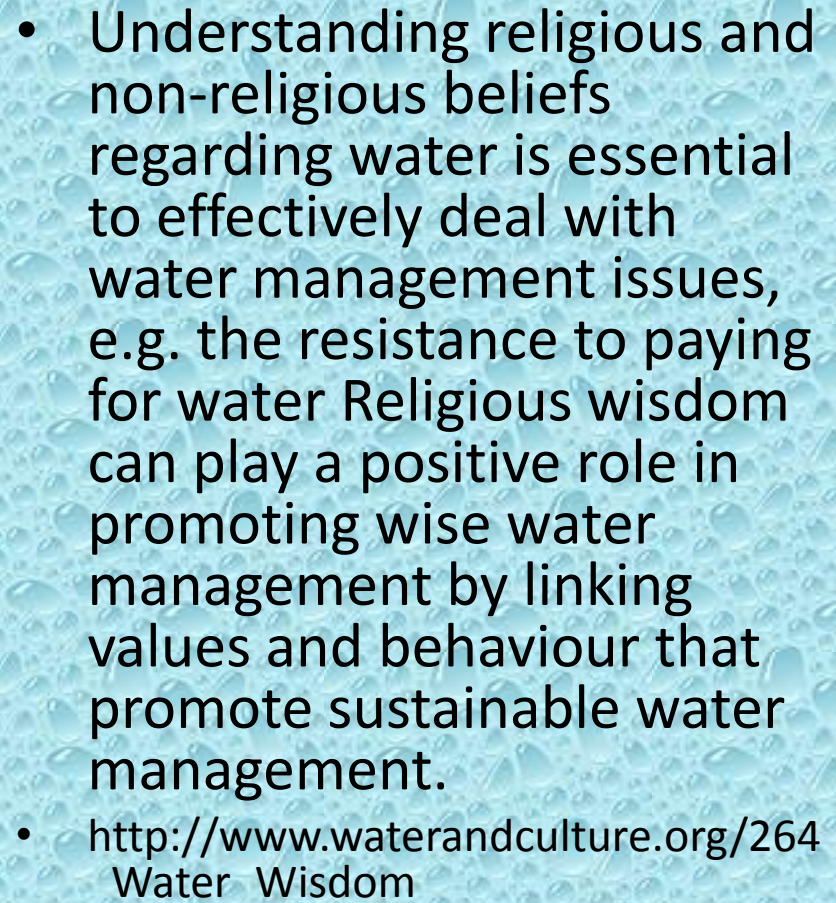
Religion

- Water plays a key role in the beliefs of many of the world's religions. Its two main symbolic qualities - rebirth and purification - have given the liquid a sacred role in many religious ceremonies and rights.
- For example:

- Christianity: The ritual of baptism, in which a person is welcomed into the church, centres on water. During the ceremony a person may be immersed in water or have a few drops sprinkled on them to symbolize the rejection of sin. Water also plays a key role in the New Testament of the Bible, in which it represents the spirit of God.
- <http://www.abc.net.au/water/stories/s1598082.htm>

Key roles

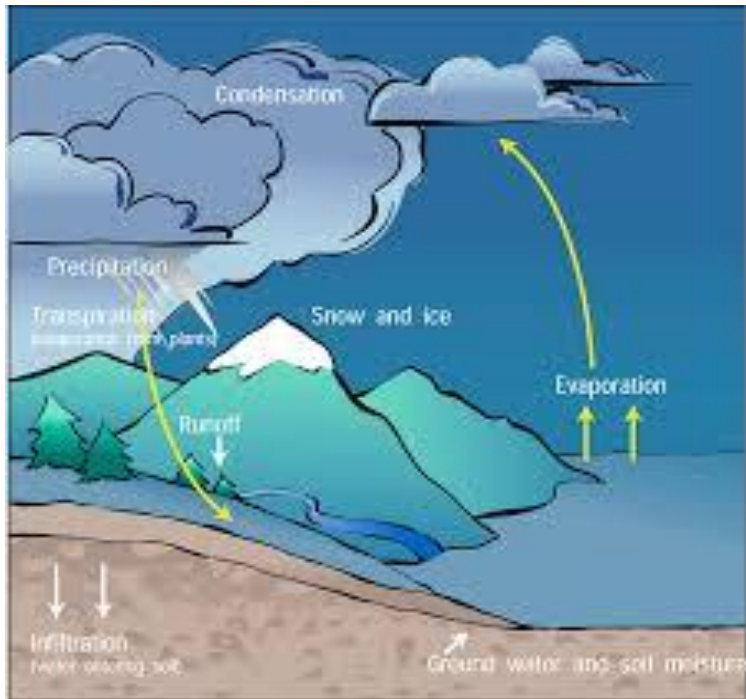
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- Water plays a key role in most religious beliefs, values and rituals.
 - Indigenous spiritual and religious beliefs hold a deep respect for water, and the traditional way of life often provides an example for a sustainable way of life.

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- Understanding religious and non-religious beliefs regarding water is essential to effectively deal with water management issues, e.g. the resistance to paying for water. Religious wisdom can play a positive role in promoting wise water management by linking values and behaviour that promote sustainable water management.
 - http://www.waterandculture.org/264_Water_Wisdom

Water pictures



WATER PICTURES



WATER PICTURES

