

# The Rainbarrel Report Part 4

Did you know that there are places on this planet where you can see the footprints of dinosaurs that died hundreds of millions of years ago? It's true. You can find them in the United States in Massachusetts and Texas and Ohio, and you can find them in England and China and other countries, too. The point here is that footprints can last a very, very long time. Even yours. And you can even leave a long-lasting footprint in water.

Conservationists, people that concern themselves with how we treat the planet, how we use the natural resources available to us, have developed a way to measure how our behavior impacts the environment. They call our usage – and in this case, our water usage – our footprint.

Here's a very cool thing: there's a water calculator that can help you understand how much water you use every day. Better still, it can show you how much water you can save through recycling and by just paying attention to the amount of water flowing through your life.

Go to [www.h2oconserve.org](http://www.h2oconserve.org) and check it out.

Calculate how much water you are saving through your daily habits. Think of one change you could make that would save a few more gallons each day. That one small change could save thousands of gallons of water each year!

## What is your water footprint?

You may already be saving more water than you realize. Take this quick test to see how those gallons add up!

\_\_\_\_\_ Do you turn off the water when you brush your teeth or stand at the bathroom sink? If so, you are saving 3 gallons or more for each minute you don't let water run down the drain.

\_\_\_\_\_ Do you take a quick shower rather than dawdling? You can save 2 to 4 gallons for each minute you don't dawdle.

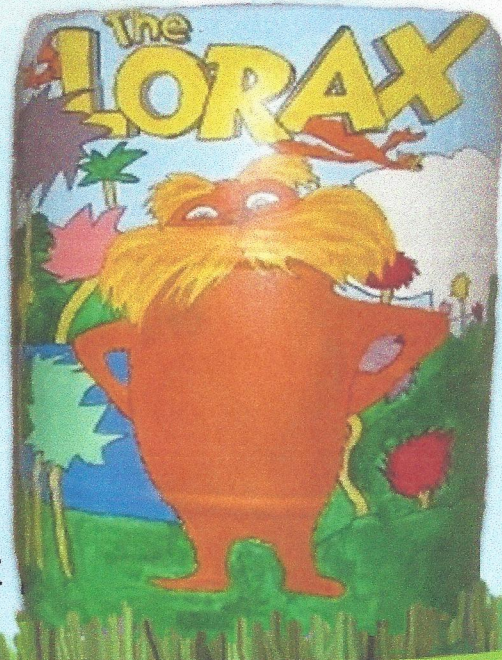
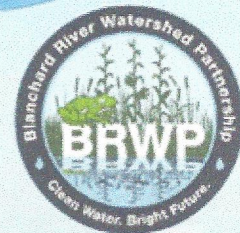
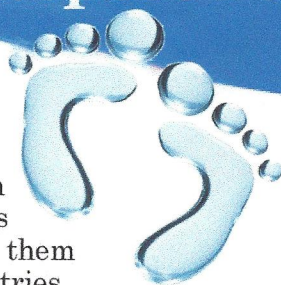
\_\_\_\_\_ Do you hand wash dishes, or use a dishwasher? A full dishwasher uses 4 to 6 gallons of water each cycle, while hand washing uses 22 gallons on average.

\_\_\_\_\_ Do you drink water from a cup or reusable bottle rather than a plastic bottle? It takes 1.5 gallons of water to manufacture a plastic bottle, so by avoiding plastic bottles you are also saving water.

\_\_\_\_\_ Do you recycle paper and plastic? Recycling a pound of paper saves 3.5 gallon of water. Recycling plastic can save 10 gallons a day per person.

\_\_\_\_\_ Do you donate clothes and household goods? Producing cotton clothing and goods requires water. By donating or reusing items, you are saving even more gallons!

*Columbus Grove High School students won third place for this rainbarrel illustration in the Blanchard River Watershed Partnership 2013 contest.*



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