

Bucket Relay

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Can you move water without spilling any?

Some communities in developing countries have to transport all the water they use from a single source (well, river, or lake) to their home. Collecting and transporting the water they need for daily activities can be a full time job. Each drop of water is valued and used wisely.

Key Topic: Water use, Water conservation

Grade Level: K - 5 (For older students (6 - 12) and adults see the *Option for Older Students* section)

Duration: 15 - 20 minutes

Objectives:

Understand that water is a precious resource.

Items Needed:

- 2 large containers of the same size
- 2 small plastic cups or ladles
- 2 buckets
- Water

Activity Steps:

1. Divide the group into two teams.
2. Line the two teams up, side-by-side, in single file lines, behind the empty containers. This is the start line.
3. Set a bucket of water a set distance away from the start line. (The distance can vary based on the age of the participants and space available.) Both buckets should be the same distance from the start line and contain the same amount of water.



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4. Give the first person in each line a small cup, ladle, or other water transportation tool.
5. On "go," the first person will run to the bucket of water, scoop up water, and travel back to the start line.
6. They will then empty the water into the team's start line container and hand off the cup or ladle to the next team member.
7. Teams rotate through until one team's start line container overflows with water.

For More Fun:

Add in obstacles or challenges. Examples include:

- They have to walk around people or barriers in the middle of the course so they cannot travel in a straight line.
- They have to walk backwards.
- They can only use one hand, etc.
- They have to balance the cup of water on their head.
- Remember to be safe!

Option for Older Students:

- Have each team form an evenly spaced line between their two containers. Distribute a cup for each person. On "go," have the person closest to the bucket of water fill their cup with water and then pour the contents in the next person's cup and so on until the last person can empty the water into their container. Repeat until one team's start line container overflows with water. Discuss which method was more efficient. Which was faster?

