

WOW! Wonders of Water**Brownie Elf Water Story**

A falcon flew by so close they could see its pale chest feathers.

“But when people build a big dam,” Brownie Elf continued, this time in a quieter voice, “it can be hard for some animals. A dam can make it hard for fish to swim up the river to lay their eggs or to swim downstream to the ocean. Sometimes, when really big dams are built, wetlands near rivers disappear. That means no more home for the animals that lived there and depended on wetlands plants for food. We have to find ways to protect the animals and help people.”

“Can we help?” Campbell asked.

“You can,” said Brownie Elf. “Just try every day to do one thing to save water. When you use less water and less electricity, that helps people and animals.

“Another way to help is to tell others what you know,” Brownie Elf continued.





The Hoover Dam

Las Vegas gets 90 percent of its water from Lake Mead.

The Hoover Dam is on the Colorado River, 30 miles from Las Vegas. It was built in 1935. It is 726 feet high and 1,244 feet long. The river, which flows in and out of Lake Mead, is more than 1,400 miles long. It flows southwest from Colorado through Utah, Arizona, Nevada, California, and Mexico.

Lake Mead was created when the Hoover Dam blocked the Colorado River and flooded the Mojave Desert. Lake Mead, the largest U.S. manmade lake, supplies water to 22 million people across the Southwest.

The Hoover Dam generates about 4 billion kilowatt-hours of hydroelectric power each year for use in Arizona, Nevada, and California.

“Not just the big things that you learned about water but smaller things, too. Small things—and small acts—can be very important. A lot of small, positive acts can add up to very big, positive changes for water.”

“I think I know what you mean,” said Campbell. “Yesterday I asked my sister to turn off the water when she brushes her teeth. But first I held a bowl under the faucet while it ran and showed her how much water she was wasting. Does that count?”

Water Wisdom

It's your job to give your cat fresh water every day. If there's water left before you refill the bowl, what should you do with it?

- A.** Pour it down the drain.
- B.** Water the houseplants with it.
- C.** Pour it into the trash.

Answer: B—Try to reuse and save water in every way you can.
Remember: Every drop you save makes a difference.



“And I asked my father to fix our leaky faucet,” Jamila said. “I put a bucket under it overnight to show him how much water it was wasting.”

“And I never use a hose anymore to clean the driveway,” Alejandra added. “I sweep. I saw how much water was just running into the street.”

Brownie Elf smiled. “Yes, those are all small but important things. My job is complete! You really love water and care about saving it and keeping it pure so there is enough for the world to share. Every day you will learn more and teach others, too.”

And so, the four friends said good-bye. “We’ll always remember what you taught us,” the girls said. “We’ll pass it on all our lives.”

