**12. Characteristics of Fresh Water and**

**Seawater**

Learning objectives:

* Understand the characteristics of fresh water and seawater
* Understand our daily drinking water

Seawater and fresh water

We have to drink water every day in order to survive, but how much do you understand the water that we are drinking every day? Complete the table by filling in the correct letters.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1. For daily drinking | 1. Low salt concentration     Salt | 1. Not suitable for drinking | 1. Water in lakes |
| 1. Takes up around 3% of water on Earth | 1. Water in oceans | 1. Takes up around 97% of water on Earth | 1. High salt concentration     Salt |

Fresh water and seawater comparison table:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Seawater |  |
| Fresh  Water |  |

Seawater and fresh water are both transparent, but \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ has a high \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ concentration, so it tastes very salty and may cause dehydration which is not suitable for drinking. We can only drink \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. However, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ only takes up a very small percentage of water on Earth, and is therefore precious, and we should not waste these resources.

P4 - The Wonderful World: Living on the Earth

1

**12. Characteristics of Fresh Water and**

**Seawater**

Learning objectives:

* Learn about seawater for flushing
* Understand the overview of the implementation of seawater for flushing in Hong Kong
* Understand the importance of conserving both seawater and fresh water

Seawater for flushing

Since 1957, the Hong Kong Government has been extracting seawater for toilet flushing, and Hong Kong is one of the few places extensively implementing seawater for flushing. In 2015, the Water Supplies Department successfully expanded Hong Kong’s seawater supply coverage to 85% of the population. Unfortunately, some places that are distant from the coast, places with dispersed inhabitation or places at a higher altitude still use fresh water for flushing due to feasibility and economic issues.

Quick assessment:

1. Which of the following place(s) still uses fresh water for flushing? （You can choose more than one answer）  
   Sheung Shui ／ Central ／ Tseung Kwan O ／ The Peak ／ Outlying Islands
2. How much fresh water can the Government save after implementing seawater for flushing?   
   20% ／ 50% ／ 90%

2

P4 - The Wonderful World: Living on the Earth

**Hint**: Making good use of sustainable resources like seawater is an important facet of Hong Kong’s water resource management. 270 million cubic metres of fresh water can be saved annually.（2018 Annual water consumption in HK: 1.29 billion m³）

Even though users do not have to pay for seawater for flushing, it is still not easy to extract seawater, so we should always avoid unnecessary flushing.