


Instructions



DW | Global Ideas Quiz | Drinking water | Question 1

What is the minimum amount of clean water a person needs a day, according to the World Health Organization?

- a) 5 liters
- b) 20 liters
- c) 50 liters

Answer b) is correct.

The World Health Organization (WHO) calls for every person to have access to at least 20 liters of clean water per day for cooking, cleaning and personal hygiene.
The source of water should not be more than a kilometer from home.
In certain situations, however, 100 liters per person may be required to adequately cover the need.

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What percentage of the Earth's surface is covered with water?

- a) circa 39 %
 - b) circa 71 %
 - c) circa 82 %
-

Answer b) is correct.

Oceans, lakes, rivers and streams, polar ice and glaciers cover 71 % of the planet's surface.

Salty oceans and seas make up most of that figure.



What is the proportion of freshwater on the planet?

- a) about 3 %
 - b) about 7 %
 - c) about 12 %
-

Answer a) is correct.

Just 3 % of the world's water store is fresh. Most of that is frozen in snow, ice and glaciers.

A fraction of the Earth's freshwater is available for us to drink.



Water is a chemical compound. Which element is found in water besides hydrogen (H)?

-
- a) Carbon dioxide
 - b) Oxygen
 - c) Nitrogen
-

Answer b) is correct.

Pure water contains the elements *hydrogen* and *oxygen*. The chemical formula for water is **H₂O**.

It is the only chemical compound on the planet that can appear in nature in solid, fluid or gas form.



How much of the human body is made up of water?

-
- a) 20 to 30 %
 - b) 35 to 45 %
 - c) 50 to 80 %
-

Answer c) is correct.

The proportion of water in a human body varies depending on weight, sex and age. A newborn is around 80 % water, while that baby's great-grandmother is around 50%.



How long can a person survive without drinking water?

- a) one to two weeks
 - b) a month
 - c) a few days
-

Answer c) is correct.

Humans can't store water like camels, and as such, we have to drink water every day.

The amount of time a person can survive without water depends on several factors, including temperature, age and health.

Even a healthy person won't last more than a few days without water, as our organs stop functioning properly without it.

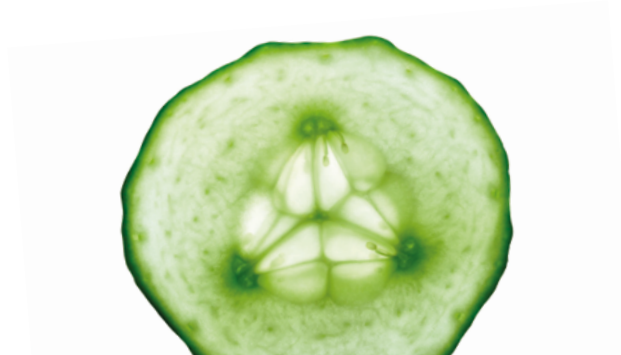


At first glance, cucumbers and jellyfish don't appear to have much in common, but they are actually made up of the same amount of water. What percentage is it?

- a) around 40 %
- b) around 75 %
- c) around 95 %

Answer c) is correct.

Cucumbers and jellyfish are up to 95 % water.





How much water does the average German use each day?

-
- a) 54 liters
 - b) 127 liters
 - c) 312 liters
-

Answer b) is correct.

Each German uses an average of 127 liters* a day for activities like cooking, cleaning and washing.

* This figure is from 2018



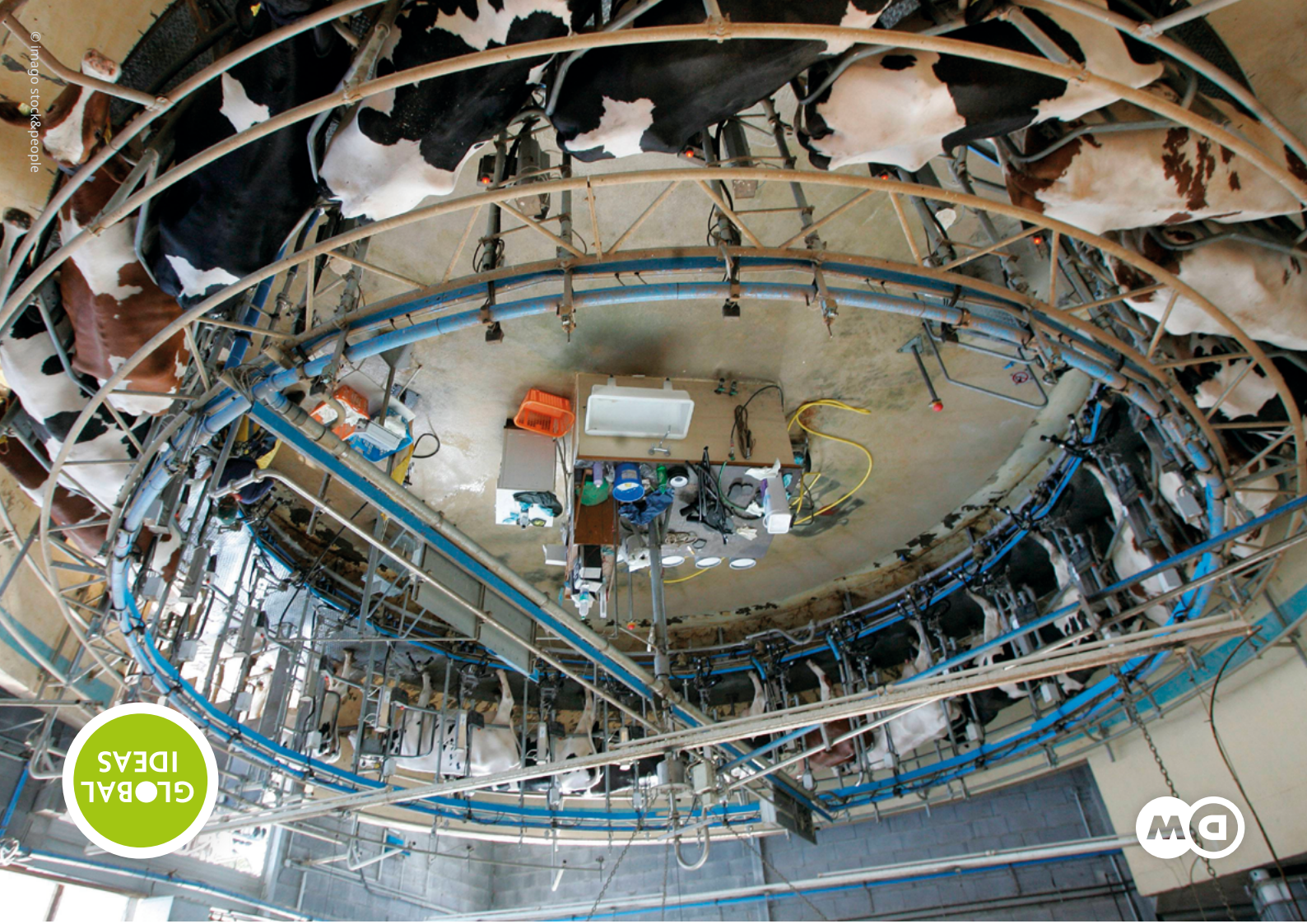
Water is required for producing most consumer goods from cars to clothes to groceries. What do we call this form of indirect water consumption?

- a) productive water consumption
- b) unseen water consumption
- c) virtual water consumption

Answer c) is correct.

Relatively speaking, we use very little water directly at home. Our virtual water consumption is much higher. This use of water happens during the production of consumer goods.

Some 8,000 liters of water are used to manufacture just one pair of jeans. That's the equivalent of 53 full bathtubs. This is also sometimes called "indirect water consumption."



How much virtual water is used to produce a liter of cow's milk?

- a) circa 25 liters
- b) circa 100 liters
- c) circa 1,000 liters

Answer c) is correct.

A liter of cow's milk requires 1,000 liters of water. Some of that water is used to produce feed and drink for the cows while some of it is used directly in milk production.

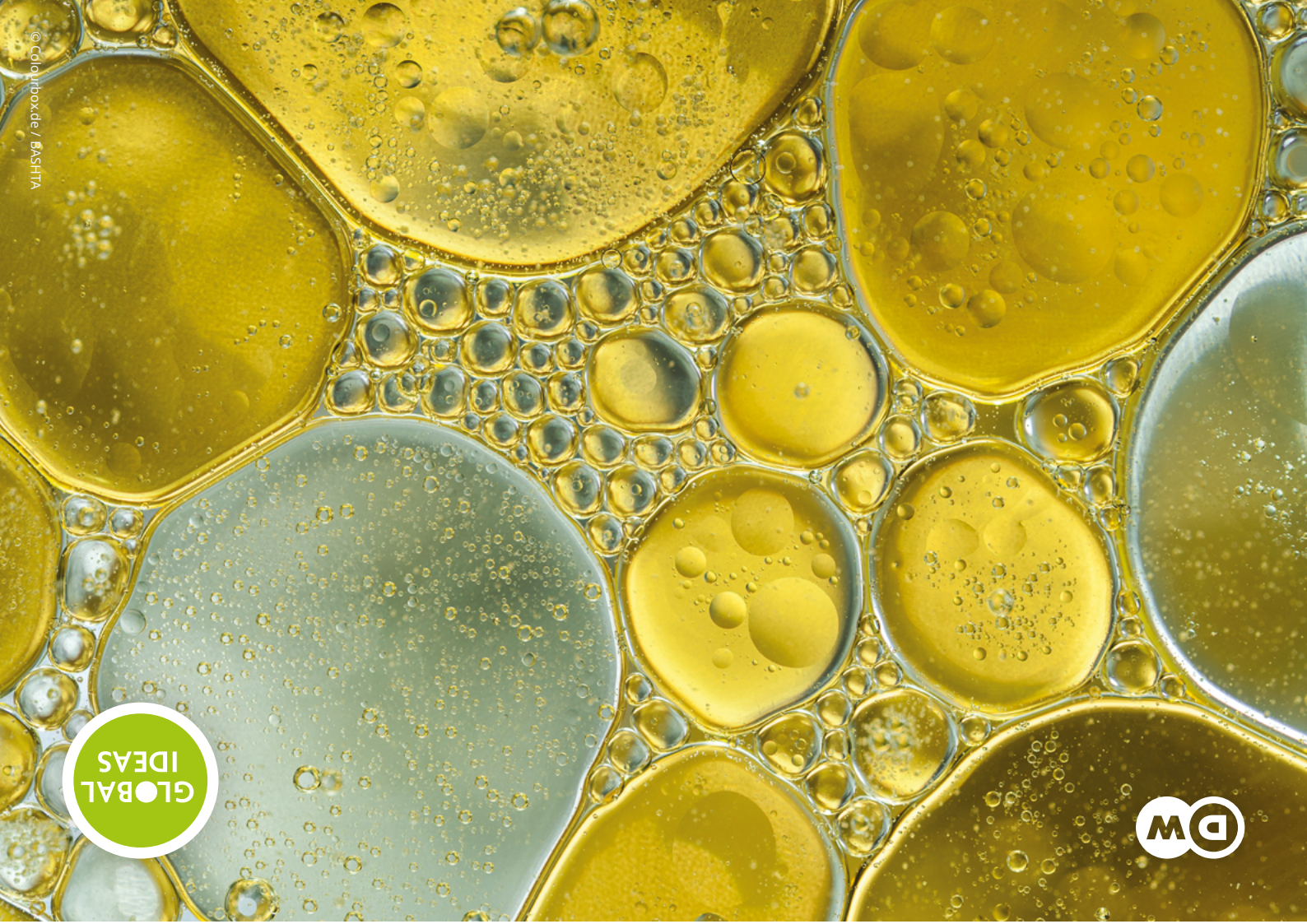


A treatment plant cleans polluted and contaminated water.
But what cannot be removed from wastewater during filtration?

-
- a) Paper residue
 - b) Traces of pharmaceuticals
 - c) Mold
-

Answer b) is correct.

Traces of pharmaceuticals such as antibiotics often end up in wastewater through our urine or improper disposal. As water treatment plants are unable to filter out these substances, they end up in oceans and rivers and in our general environment.



How many liters of drinking water can be soiled by just one drop of petroleum?

- a) up to 50 liters
- b) up to 500 liters
- c) up to 1.000 liters

Answer c) is correct.

A single drop of petroleum can contaminate up to 1,000 liters of drinking water.

Water polluted with petroleum can damage the central nervous system, lungs, liver and kidneys and can cause cancer.



True or false?

Clean drinking water is a **human right**.

Answer: Correct!

The United Nations General Assembly recognized access to clean drinking water as a human right in 2010.



On average, how much salt is in seawater?

-
- a) 1.5 %
 - b) 3.5 %
 - c) 8.5 %
-

Answer b) is correct.

Salt content varies across the world's oceans and seas. But on average, a liter contains 3.5 % or three tablespoons of salt.

Saltwater is not suitable for drinking. Fresh water supplies are therefore essential for the survival of humans and most plants and animals.



Complete the sentence:
In seas with a high salt content you can ...

-
- a) ... find lots of fish and seaweed.
 - b) ... float on the water's surface.
 - c) ... see right down to the seabed.
-

Answer b) is correct.

At 28 %, the Dead Sea has an extremely high salt content. This enables people to float on the surface without swimming or treading water.

Saltwater is denser than freshwater. Denser water is better able to carry weight on its surface.