Peter's Magical Water Journey
A Flannel Board Story

GRADE LEVEL 2-4
A Supplement to Water Is Your Best Friend

California Department of Water Resources
State of California
The Resources Agency

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A Flannel Board Story

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INTRODUCTION

Peter’s Magical Water Journey, A Flannel Board Story is designed to aid teachers in explaining the basic concepts of the water cycle to 2-4 grade students. It teaches children about the three forms of water, the importance of water, where it comes from, and why we should use it wisely.

The flannel board story includes a script for teachers to follow (page 1), a vocabulary list of commonly used water-related words (page 7), and directions for making the flannel board and characters (page 8). Note that the vocabulary words are underlined in the script.

The teacher reads the script to the children and, thus, plays all of the roles. He or she, while reading, places the characters on the flannel board to illustrate the story about Willy the Water Droplet and his friend Peter as they explore the nature and uses of water. The teacher may want to have the characters already placed on the board and simply point to them.

Note that the numbers on the left side of the script correspond to the characters starting on page 9 that are to be “on stage” during the scene.

Children listen to the teacher read the story. They are quite attentive during this type of presentation—it makes learning about the wise use of water interesting and easy for them to understand at the lower grade levels. The children usually sit in a semi-circle on the floor very close to the board.

Concepts for this story are taken from the California Department of Water Resources’ publication Water Is Your Best Friend teacher’s guide. Teachers can use the flannel board story in conjunction with this teacher’s guide, which explains the importance of water, the water cycle, and how to use water wisely.

Special credit is given to Diana Laney who wrote and illustrated the flannel board story; to Lydann Lord who created the concept; and to Western Municipal Water District which sponsored the unit.
PETER'S MAGICAL WATER JOURNEY EVALUATION FORM

In order to continue providing this publication free to California schools we need your feedback. Please tear out and complete this evaluation form. Fold, staple and mail.

As a gift for completing this evaluation form, please select one of the educational materials from below.

YOUR NAME: 
SCHOOL: 
ADDRESS: 

PHONE #: ________________________________

PLEASE CIRCLE OR FILL IN THE APPROPRIATE ANSWER

1. Grade level(s) taught: K 1 2 3 4 5 6
   Other ______________________

2. Have you used this publication before? _____Yes _____No

3. Would you use it again? _____Yes _____No

4. Using a grading scale: 5=excellent, 4=good, 3=average, 2=poor, 1=very poor, please rate the following:
   _____ Tie-in with your school's curriculum requirements
   _____ Ability to increase your student's knowledge of water
   _____ Instructions easy to follow
   _____ Interest to your students

5. Would you recommend this to others? _____Yes _____No

6. How could this publication be improved? / Other Comments:
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________

GIFT SELECTION (SELECT ONE):

1. _____ HYDROEXPLORER SOFTWARE _____ MACINTOSH _____ IBM
2. _____ CALIFORNIA WATER MAP 3. _____ DISCOVER CALIFORNIA'S WATER BOARD GAME
4. _____ AIMS BOOK, WATER PRECIOUS WATER

3
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>iii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peter's Magical Water Journey Evaluation Form</td>
<td>iv</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peter's Magical Water Journey — The Script</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vocabulary List</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Directions for Making the Flannel Board and Characters</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flannel Board Characters</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
(1) Peter couldn't believe it! At school he saw posters everywhere saying "Use Water Wisely!" Every time he turned on the TV, the broadcaster was saying "Use Water Wisely! We have a limited supply!" Every time Peter picked up a newspaper, he saw the headlines reading "Don't waste water!" It seemed like the whole world was talking about water.

(2) That night, as he crawled into bed, those words kept spinning around in his head. He kept thinking, "Using water wisely is important...Don't waste water." In a little while he dozed off to sleep.

PETER: Suddenly Peter heard a noise, and sat up in bed with a jolt! "Oh," he thought to himself, "it is just the kitchen faucet. I forgot to turn it off all the way, and it's dripping again." And he laid back down to go to sleep.

Suddenly, the faucet stopped dripping, and Peter heard a loud splash. He jumped up and ran to the kitchen, screeching to a stop in amazement. There, in the middle of the kitchen floor, sat a big water drop!

(3) It grinned at Peter!

PETER: "Who...who are you?" Peter stammered.

WILLY: "I'm Willy the Water Drop!" cried the big drop of water.

PETER: "Wow!" was all Peter could manage to say.

WILLY: "Hi!" said Willy, as he stood up and brushed himself off. "I'm here to tell you all about water, and to explain those words you've been hearing about and reading about so much."

PETER: "You...you mean 'use water wisely' and 'don't waste water'?" asked Peter.

WILLY: "Uh-huh," grinned Willy. "But before I do that, I'm going to take you on a fantastic journey to teach you where your water comes from."

PETER: "You mean it isn't made in the faucet?" Peter asked.

WILLY: "What? Of course not!" exclaimed Willy. "Now watch very closely." The big water drop dug into his pocket and pulled out some sparkling drops of water.

PETER: "What is the big deal about those?" laughed Peter. "They just look like regular drops of water to me."
WILLY: "Nope." whispered Willy. "These are very special, very magical drops of water." And he sprinkled them over Peter.

Suddenly the kitchen disappeared; then Peter's whole house disappeared! He looked wildly around and saw they were floating on a cloud high above the land. Willy laughed when he saw the astonished look on Peter's face.

(5) PETER: "I guess those are magical drops of water all right!" gasped Peter. "But what are we doing here?"

WILLY: "Our journey starts here, with something called the water cycle," explained Willy. "In the water cycle, water has three different forms. Ice is the solid form. It's made by freezing water, and causing all the tiny molecules in the water to move very, very slowly. The liquid form of water is what you drink and swim in.

(6) The molecules in liquid water move faster than molecules in ice. The third form of water is water vapor. This is water that has turned into a gas by getting very hot. Have you ever boiled water in a steam kettle, Peter?" asked Willy.

PETER: "Sure!" Peter replied.

WILLY: "Well, when the liquid water in the steam kettle becomes very hot, the water molecules move faster and faster, and begin to jump into the air."

PETER: "Is that what steam is?" Peter asked.

WILLY: "Yes!" said Willy. "When those molecules of water begin to jump into the air, it is called evaporation. The molecules in water vapor are spaced far apart, not like the crowded, slow-moving molecules in ice. When the molecules slow down again and get closer together, liquid is again formed. This is called condensation."

PETER: "But what has that got to do with the water cycle?" asked Peter.

WILLY: "Watch!" yelled Willy. He grabbed Peter's hand and jumped off the cloud. Down, down, down they fell, and plop! They splashed into the ocean.

(9a,9b, 9c) "We are in the water cycle now!" grinned Willy as they floated in the ocean. "See how I'm the liquid form of water? Well, watch closely. And hang on—it is going to get very crazy!"

(10) Peter already thought things were a little crazy. A big water drop that talked and little water drops that took them to strange places! What else could happen? Still, he kept watching Willy the Water Drop, and as the sun shone down on them, Willy slowly began to disappear! Peter grabbed at the water drops hand, and quickly they rose up into the air.

PETER: "What is going on?" cried Peter.
WILLY:  "I've become water vapor now, Peter!" said Willy. "The sun has heated me up so I'm beginning to evaporate! I'm just like the steam in a steam kettle now!"

PEETER:  "Oh," said Peter. And he hung on tightly for dear life.

(13)  Up, up, up they rose, and slowly Willy began to appear again, but now he looked different.

"Willy! You look just like a piece of cloud!" exclaimed Peter.

WILLY:  "Yes," replied Willy. "It's cooler up here, so I've condensed into a cloud."

Suddenly a cold wind began to blow the pair over a snowy mountain top.

WILLY:  (14)  "Hang on!" shouted Willy. "I'm freezing into a snowflake now!"

PEETER:  (15)  "Whooooooooooh!" yelled Peter as he and Willy tumbled down towards the mountain. "So this is how a snowflake feels."

They crashed through the trees and plopped into a snowdrift.

PEETER:  "Whew!" sighed Peter as he shook some snow out of his hair. "Why did you turn into a snowflake like that, Willy?"

WILLY:  "It was so cold up there I froze while I was still water vapor," replied Willy, "and that turned me into snow. Remember, snow and ice are both solid forms of water."

PEETER:  "Oh yes!" smiled Peter. "And if it hadn't been that cold, you would have turned into a raindrop instead, right?"

WILLY:  "Yes!" grinned Willy. But the water cycle isn't done yet. Here comes the sun again! Hang on!"

(9a,9b, 9c)  Suddenly, the sun burst out of the clouds and Willy suddenly melted back into a water drop. Willy and Peter slid off the snowdrift and splashed into a swift stream.

PEETER:  "BRRRRR!" shivered Peter, as they tumbled over rocks and waterfalls. On and on the stream flowed. Soon it turned into a big river, and before Peter knew it, he and Willy were floating in the ocean again!

WILLY:  "Well, that was the water cycle," said Willy. "How did you like it?"

PEETER:  "It was great!" exclaimed Peter. "But how does water from the water cycle get to the faucet in my house?"

WILLY:  "Come on and let's find out!" said Willy. He reached back into his pocket and pulled out a few more of the tiny, magical drops. He sprinkled them over Peter. Suddenly Peter and Willy were again flying high over the land!
WILLY: “Look down, Peter, and you’ll see how people get water to their houses. In some places, water company workers dig **wells** down into the ground to pump up water that has soaked down into the ground. The water then runs through **pipes** that deliver it to homes.”

(18) “In other places, the water in nearby **rivers** and **lakes** is run through big water **pipes** to homes.”

(19) “And in still other places, especially where there may not be enough water close by, big **canals** called **aqueducts** are built by water company workers to carry the water from far away places to cities and homes of people like you.”

PETER: “Wow,” said Peter. “I guess it takes a lot of work to bring water to our houses.”

WILLY: “That is right!” grinned Willy. “And now, before we go back to your house, we have one more stop on our water journey. It is time to see how much fun water can be!”

(Water Drops) Willy quickly tossed some more magical water drops onto Peter.

(4) Suddenly Peter and Willy were whizzing through space! First they were swimming, then fishing, then waterskiing, then ice skating, then floating on inner-tubes, then throwing water balloons, then running through sprinklers.

PETER: “Boy,” shouted Peter, “I never knew water could be so much fun!” He was having the time of his life!

WILLY: “Watch this!” cried Willy. “Water is not only fun, but it is very useful and important too!”

(Water Drops) Again Willy tossed the magical water drops onto Peter, and Peter found himself using water as he did everyday except this time it was in fast motion! He was brushing his teeth, taking a shower, watering the plants, washing dishes, mopping the floor, cleaning the car, scrubbing his dog, shining the windows, washing clothes, and drinking water!

PETER: “Whew!” he sighed, as he huffed and puffed. “I never realized how often I use water. It sure is important. I couldn’t have done any of those things without it!”

WILLY: “Yes, that is right,” Willy said. “Now, are you still wondering what those words ‘use water **wisely**’ and ‘**don’t waste** water’ mean?”

PETER: “Oh yes!” clapped Peter.

(37) WILLY: “Okay,” laughed Willy. “Better hang on really tight this time!”

(Water Drops) He reached down deep into his pocket again and pulled out a few more sparkling, magical **water drops**. “There are only a few more left,” said Willy. He threw the drops over Peter’s head, and **WHOOOOOOSH!**
Peter blinked. There they were, back in his very own kitchen. And the kitchen faucet was still dripping!

PETER: “You mean I can learn what ‘use water wisely’ and ‘don’t waste water’ mean here in my very own house?” he asked.

WILLY: “You bet you can,” smiled Willy. “These words simply mean use what water you want, but not any more than you need. It is as easy as that!”

PETER: “Is that all?” wondered Peter.

WILLY: “That is it, but it is very important to remember. Now you know all about the water cycle and all the hard work it takes to bring water to your house. You also know how much fun water can be!” said Willy.

PETER: “Oh, and don’t forget,” added Peter, “I learned how important it is and how we need water for lots of things we do everyday, like brushing our teeth and washing our face!”

WILLY: “That is right,” said Willy. “But there is something else you need to know, and that is, while there is only a certain amount of water in the world, there are more and more people in the world every day, and everyone of those people need water, just like you do. If we don’t start using water wisely, someday there might not be enough water for everyone.”

PETER: “Oh! That would be awful!” said Peter.

WILLY: “It sure would be,” agreed Willy. “So, now that you know all about water, just remember this.” And into Peter’s ear he whispered, “Don’t waste water. Use water wisely. Use what water you want, but not any more than you need.”

Then, when Willy reached into his pocket and pulled out the very last of his magical water drops, and sprinkled them over himself, the big water drop promptly disappeared!

PETER: “Use water wisely... Don’t waste water... Use what water you want, but not any more than you need...” Peter was mumbling to himself. Suddenly he gave a start, and sat up. He was in his own bed! And it was still the middle of the night!

“Have I been dreaming?” he asked. But, no one answered him. Suddenly, he heard the kitchen faucet dripping and remembered he had not turned it off all the way.

“I remember now!” Peter shouted. “A big water drop named Willy took me on a magical water journey to teach me all about water and how important it is.”

He listened for a moment to the dripping faucet. “I guess I can start using water wisely now by turning off the faucet, all the way this time!” Peter thought.
Peter got out of bed and stumbled through the dark house to the kitchen. When he got there, he noticed the water drops as they fell from the faucet.

"Gee," he thought to himself. "I remember Willy had those very special, very magical water drops he sprinkled on me to take me to all those wonderful places. I wonder if these drops are magical?"

Just as he finished the last tightening twist on the faucet to stop it from dripping, Peter reached out and caught the last few sparkling drops of water. He looked at them for a moment and imagined they looked just a little bit like Willy the Water Drop. Suddenly he sprinkled them over his own head. And what do you think happened next?

Well, that is another story!

THE END
VOCABULARY LIST
(Grades 2-4)

AQUEDUCTS - canals used to carry water long distances
BROADCASTER - a person on T.V. or radio who talks about the news
CANAL - an artificial waterway for transporting water, like an aqueduct
CLOUD - visible collection of water vapor in the air
CONDENSATION - changing vapor to a liquid or solid form
EVAPORATION - the process in which heat warms water and changes it into a vapor
FAUCET - a device used to control the flow of water
ICE - solid form of water
LAKE - body of water surrounded by land
LIQUID - something that flows like water
MOLECULES - smallest part of a substance without changing it
OCEAN - a large body of salt water
PIPES - a metal or plastic tube used to carry water
RIVER - a natural stream of water emptying into an ocean or lake
SNOW - water which has changed from a vapor to a solid and falls from the sky
SNOWFLAKE - a single crystal of snow
STEAM - the vapor that comes from boiling water
STEAM KETTLE - container used to boil water
STREAM - a steady flow of water; like a river, but smaller
VAPOR - the state of water when it has been heated to form a mist
WASTE - to use carelessly
WATER CYCLE - the steps water goes through in nature: evaporating from lakes and oceans, forming clouds, condensing as rain and snow, and falling back to earth
WATER DROP - small amount of water
WELL - a hole drilled deep in the ground to get underground water
WISELY - in a smart or intelligent manner
FLANNEL
BOARD
CHARACTERS
DIRECTIONS FOR MAKING
THE FLANNEL BOARD AND CHARACTERS

1. Make the flannel board by gluing or stapling white flannel or other light colored flannel to a 3-foot-wide by 2-foot-wide poster or foam board.

2. Trace characters onto medium weight interfacing (not the iron-on type). (Use on overhead projector to enlarge scenery).
   Note: For scenes 9a, 9b, and 9c, trace sections onto interfacing as one piece, matching the dotted lines.

3. Number characters on reverse side to match them to the correct scene in the story.

4. Color characters with felt pens or liquid embroidery pens, or have students color the characters.

5. Spray the colored characters with a spray coating to keep the colors from fading or smudging.

6. Cut out the characters.

1] Spray mount can be purchased at art/graphic store for this purpose.
PETER READING POSTER

USE WATER WISELY
PETER IN BED

DON'T WASTE WATER
WILLY THE WATER DROP AND PETER
(IN THE KITCHEN)
WATER DROPS
WILLY THE WATER DROP AND PETER
(Floating on a cloud)
SOLID WATER

ICE CUBES
LIQUID WATER
WATER VAPOR

WATER VAPOR
WATER CYCLE
Willy the Water Drop and Peter rising into the air before Willy disappears.
WILLY THE WATER DROP TURNS INTO VAPOR AND RISES IN THE AIR WITH PETER
WILLY AS A CLOUD AND PETER
SNOW FLAKES
WILLY AS A SNOWFLAKE

PETER
PETER AND WILLY FLYING
WATER THAT COMES FROM A LAKE
WATER THAT TRAVELS THROUGH CANALS AND AQUEDUCTS
WILLY FISHES
PETER WATERSKIES
WILLY ICE SKATES
PETER FLOATS ON AN INNERTUBE
PETER THROWS WATER BALLOONS
WILLY RUNS THROUGH SPRINKLER
WATERING PLANTS
WASHING DISHES
MOPPING THE FLOOR
CLEANING THE CAR
SCRUBBING THE DOG
SHINING THE WINDOWS
WASHING CLOTHES
DRINKING WATER
PETER CLAPPING
WILLY AND PETER LOOK AT DRIPPING FAUCET
WILLY WHISPERS IN PETER'S EAR
PETER AND THE LEAKY FAUCET
PETER SPRINKLES DROPS
OVER HIS HEAD