

Build a Water Wise Garden

Cut out the 24 cards. Each card shows something you might find in a garden or home that uses water. The cards are grouped into 8 categories.

Your job:

1. Sort your cards into the 8 categories: Watering, Storage, Mulch, Pool, Car Washing, Smart Tech, Wicking Beds and Garden Design.
2. From each category, choose the card you think is the most water-wise.
3. Arrange your chosen cards to create your garden.
4. Once everyone is done, your teacher will reveal the answers.



Commercial car
wash



No rainwater
collection



Drip Irrigation



Washing car with
hose at home



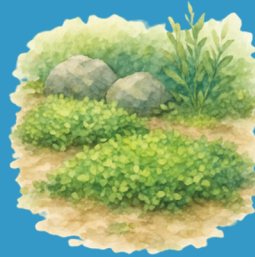
Bare soil



Watering can



Basic wicking bed



Some groundcover,
no shade



Thick woodchip mulch



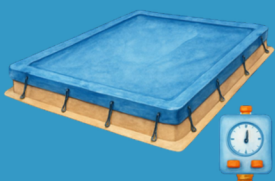
No pool cover



Fixed sprinkler schedule



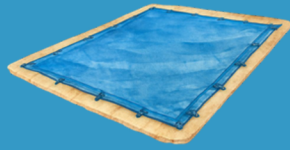
WiFi controller +
moisture sensor for
sprinklers



Pool cover + pool timer



Waterless car wash



Pool cover only



Tank + Diverter +
connected to house



Basic sprinkler
timer



Tree Shade +
groundcover +
garden beds



Open-ended
hose



Regular pot with
drainage holes



Wicking bed with
overflow back to
garden



Full lawn, no shade



Gravel

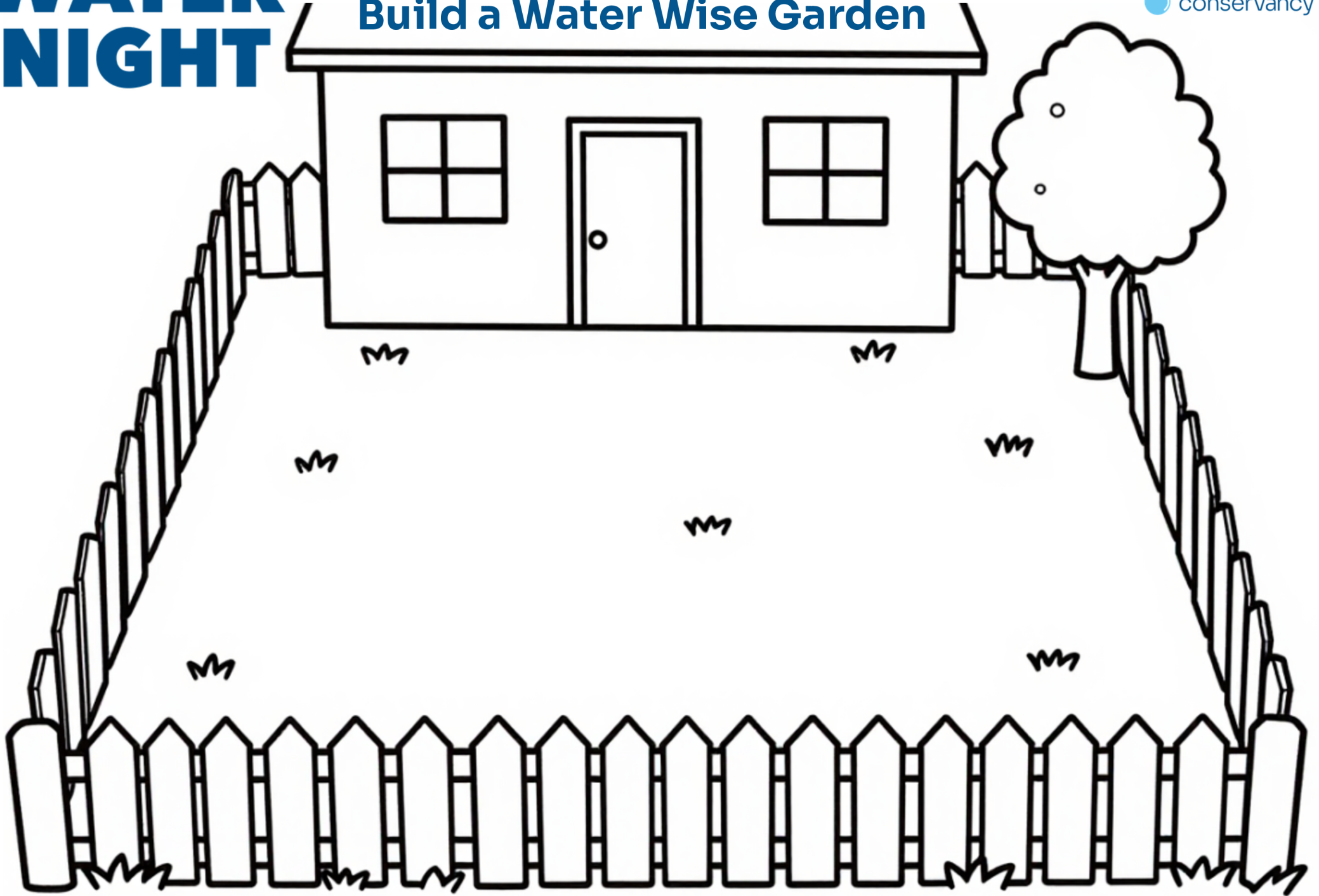


Basic rainwater
tank

WATER NIGHT

Build a Water Wise Garden

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the water
conservancy



Build a Water Wise Garden

Teacher's Guide

The Build a Water Wise Garden activity is designed for students in Years 4–6 to explore water conservation and sustainable gardening. Students sort the cards into categories, choose the most water-wise option from each one, and use their selections to build a garden that uses water more efficiently.

Pre-activity vocabulary and concepts students should be familiar with:

- Water conservation, evaporation, runoff, rainwater harvesting, irrigation, mulching, drought.

Students should also understand that:

- water is a limited resource and everyday choices affect how much is used or wasted
- different garden setups can reduce the amount of water needed to keep plants healthy

Teacher task: Explain to students that they will use the cards to build the most water-wise garden they can by choosing one card from each of the 8 categories.

Student task: Sort the cards into categories, then choose the card you think is the most water-wise from each one. Use your chosen cards to build your garden.



Build a Water Wise Garden

Answer Sheet

Best choices:

- Watering: Drip irrigation
- Storage: Tank + diverter + connected to house
- Mulch: Thick woodchip mulch
- Pool: Pool cover + pool timer
- Car Washing: Waterless car wash
- Smart Tech: WiFi controller + moisture sensor for sprinklers
- Wicking Beds: Wicking bed with overflow back to garden
- Garden Design: Tree shade + groundcover + garden beds

OK choices:

- Watering: Watering can
- Storage: Basic rainwater tank
- Mulch: Gravel
- Pool: Pool cover only
- Car Washing: Commercial car wash
- Smart Tech: Basic timer
- Wicking Beds: Basic wicking bed
- Garden Design: Some groundcover, no tree shade

Worst choices:

- Watering: Open-ended hose
- Storage: Bucket / no collection
- Mulch: Bare soil
- Pool: No cover
- Car Washing: Hose at home
- Smart Tech: Fixed sprinkler schedule
- Wicking Beds: Regular pot with drainage holes
- Garden Design: Full lawn, no tree shade

Build a Water Wise Garden

8 Categories Answers

Watering

- Drip irrigation
- Watering can
- Open-ended hose

Storage

- Tank + diverter + connected to house
- Basic rainwater tank
- Bucket / no collection

Mulch

- Thick woodchip mulch
- Gravel
- Bare soil

Pool

- Pool cover + pool timer
- Pool cover only
- No cover

Car Washing

- Waterless car wash
- Commercial car wash
- Hose at home

Smart Tech

- WiFi controller + moisture sensor for sprinklers
- Basic timer
- Fixed sprinkler schedule

Wicking Beds

- Wicking bed with overflow back to garden
- Basic wicking bed
- Regular pot with drainage holes

Garden Design

- Tree shade + groundcover + garden beds
- Some groundcover, no tree shade
- Full lawn, no tree shade