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# TEACHER GUIDE

## OCEANS, LAKES AND RIVERS GRADES K-2

### COMMON MISCONCEPTIONS

The biggest misconception about Earth's water is the amount of freshwater available for human use. Many students, and even adults, are surprised to learn that freshwater makes up only 3% of the water on Earth and the vast majority of it is in glacier and underground. Only about 0.03% of water on Earth is surface water like lakes and rivers!

Young students also mix up the different kinds of freshwater since they are very similar. Differentiating between lakes, rivers and streams is challenging for some students. Showing students how these bodies of water differ on maps can be helpful for clearing up the differences.

Another common misconception for some students is that glaciers are not water. This is connected to their understanding of solids, liquids, and gases, and how water can exist in all forms. Discussing how glaciers are made of ice and snow can help build the bridge necessary to clear up this misconception. Relating this idea to rain and snow can also be helpful since many young students may be familiar with snow being frozen rain.

Finally, another misconception about Earth's water is that we can always get more of it. This misconception is common in young students that don't have an understanding of the water cycle. The amount of water on Earth will always remain the same. Since it rains and snows, young students may think we have an endless supply of freshwater. Emphasizing that we have a limited amount of water on Earth is important for encouraging students to conserve this precious resource.

### TIPS FOR TEACHERS

An amazing book with beautiful illustrations that pairs nicely with this topic and also introduces the water cycle is *The Drop in My Drink: The Story of Water on Our Planet* by Meredith Hooper.