





# Whiskers & Friends: Where Has the Water Gone?






## Appendix: Additional Information

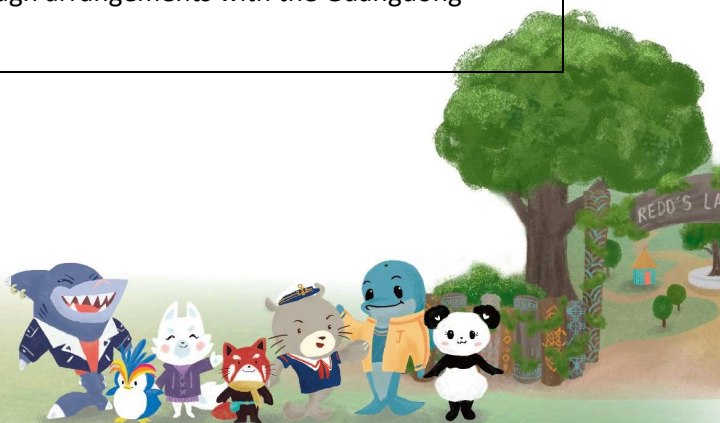
P.1-2	
	In recent years, Hong Kong has been seeing new summer temperature records: The average temperature in summer 2015 (June to August) was 29.4°C. In 2016, there were thirty-eight days on which the “Very Hot Weather Warning” was issued.
P.5-6	
	Male peacocks spread and display their tail feathers like a fan, but females do not. The males spread their tails to attract their mates and to frighten their enemies.
	Is the peacock in the story male or female? (Answer: male)
P.7-8	
	The trunk of an elephant is very flexible. It is a tool for drinking water. An elephant sucks up water with the front of its trunk and squirts it into its mouth, rather than drinking water directly through the trunk. An elephant can suck as much as five litres of water at a time!
P.9-10	
	The Indian rhino is also known as the greater one-horned rhino. The horn of the Indian rhino is distinctive from other rhino species in Africa. Indian rhinos have only one horn on their heads, while African rhinos have two.



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P.11-12	
	<p>What impacts would a water shortage in nature have on wildlife?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water is vital for life; it is the main component of all plants and animals, as well as humans.</li> <li>• Water allows plants to retain their shapes. Plants cannot stay upright if they do not have enough water. Also, water transports nutrients to plants and enables photosynthesis, which is a food-making process for plants.</li> <li>• Animals rely on water to maintain their body temperature.</li> <li>• Many animals' food sources are inside the water; a shortage of water would destabilise their food supply.</li> <li>• Water shortages increase the risk of hill fires, which destroy the habitats of wild animals.</li> </ul>
P.13-14	
	<p>Gharials are the second-largest crocodiles alive, with mature males reaching lengths of five to six metres. Their snouts narrow down as they age.</p> <p>Threats to gharials caused by humans are largely related to dam constructions and irrigation systems. These affect river flows and cause seasonal droughts. Unlike other crocodile species, gharials can neither traverse stretches of land nor dig to look for water. Therefore gharials are vulnerable in the drought-prone summer.</p>
P.17-18	
	<p>The village chief in the story developed a new river to bring water into the village for the villagers' daily use. How about us? Where does the water that we use every day come from?</p> <p>Hong Kong's two main sources of water are rainfall in natural catchments and water from the Dongjiang river in Guangdong Province. The Dongjiang, Hong Kong's major source of water, is one of the main tributaries of the Pearl River in China. Hong Kong started to source water from the Dongjiang as early as 1965. Today, seventy to eighty percent of the water we use in Hong Kong comes from the Dongjiang, through arrangements with the Guangdong authorities.</p>



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P.21-22



According to research conducted in 2015, daily per capita water consumption in Hong Kong is one hundred and thirty litres, which is above the world average of one hundred and ten litres.

