



# The Hidden Water Footprint

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## PART I

**INTRODUCTION:** You have been hired as a **Sustainability Chief** for a company that makes:

**SMARTPHONES**

**LEATHER BOOTS**

**CHOCOLATE BARS**

*(circle one)*

**Your company wants to redesign their product so that less water is used to make it. What do we already know about the product and how it's made? Let's write it down!**

### What do you know?

With your group, make a list of observations about your product in the box below. How might water use relate to each observation? *(Hint: Check out the infographics on the back of this page!)*

- Read your product's packaging or tags
- Consider the different materials the product is made of
- Find out where the product is made

### What We Know

#### Examples:

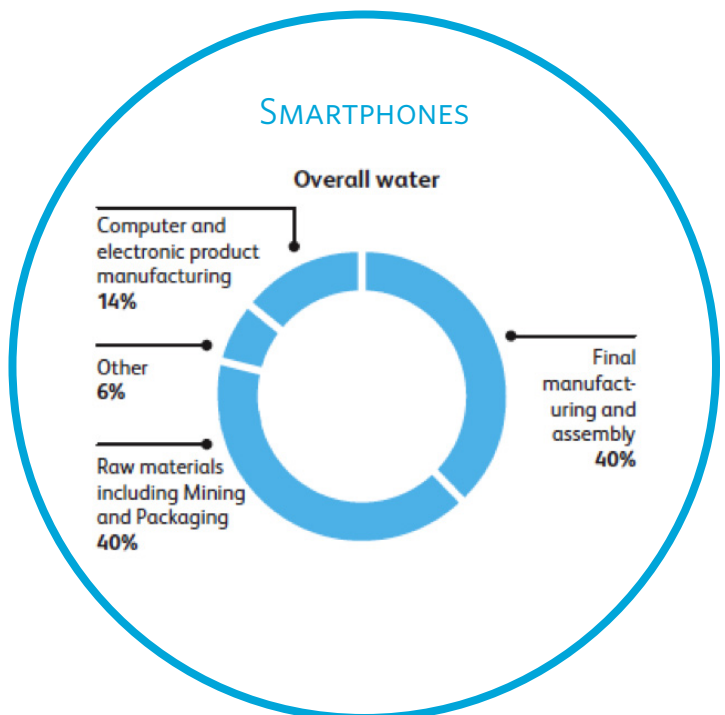
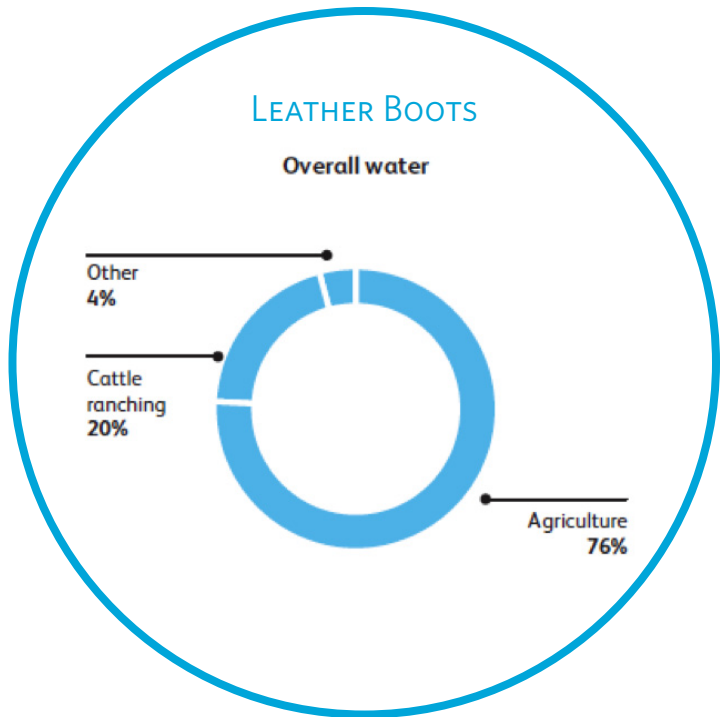
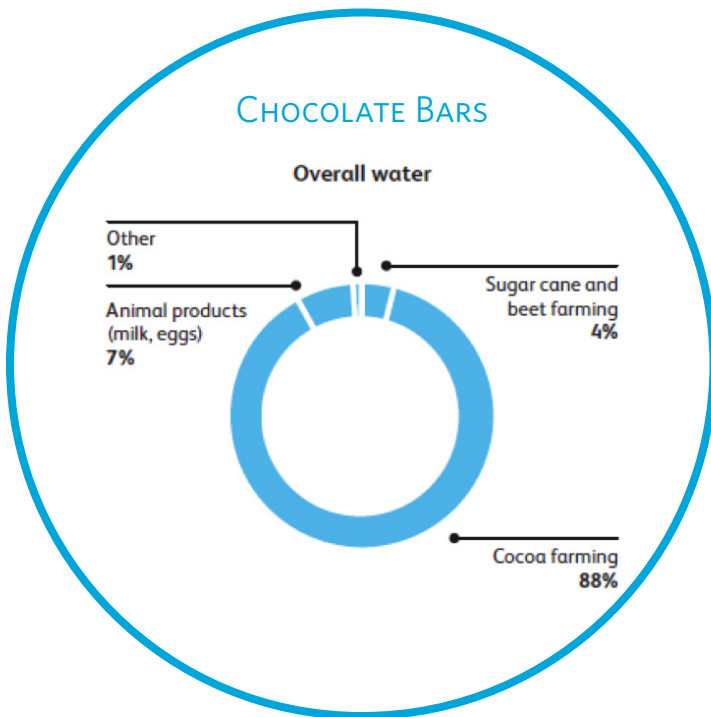
- The tags says the product is made out of leather. I know leather comes from cows, and cows need water.
- The product looks like it was dyed brown. I know it usually takes water to mix up a solution of dye.





## A Comparison of Water Footprints

These infographics show how different parts of the manufacturing process contribute to each product's total water footprint. Find your product, and check it out!



NOTE: All of the water footprint information presented here is from [The land and water footprints of everyday products by Helen Burley at Friends of the Earth.](#)





## Part II

### What do you want to know? What questions should you ask?

In the box below, write down a list of things you *want* to know about your product that you don't. Then, write down what question you will ask your company to find out the answer. **Try to brainstorm at least 5 questions!**

#### What We Want to Know

##### Examples:

- I don't know if the product is washed before it goes to a store. Is water used to wash the product?
- The infographic says that water is used to mine the materials for this product. How is water used for mining? Is the same amount of water used for mining different metals, like copper and silver?

Have you brainstormed at least 5 questions? Show them to your teacher, then turn this worksheet over and follow the instructions on the back!





## Propose an idea and present your product!

1. Ask your teacher for a **Supply Chain handout** for your product. Read the handout to learn more about how water is used to make your product.
2. Are there any questions you wrote down that you can't find answers for on the Supply Chain handout? Draw a star next to those questions, and write a brief summary below about how you might research those questions:

3. Write one suggestion you could give your company for one way they could reduce the amount of water used to make your product:

**Example:** Make a pair of boots out of 'fake' leather instead of real leather, since raising cows requires a lot of water.

4. Be ready to share the suggestion you came up with in #3 above with your classmates!

