



The Importance of **Water**



Key Inquiry Question



Why do we need water
and how do we use it?



Task: List all the ways we use water
in our daily lives...

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WHY DO WE NEED WATER

Everywhere you look, and almost everything we do requires some level of water use. We ourselves could not survive without a daily intake of water.

The human body is made up of between 50 and 75 percent water and would only survive a couple of days if water was not available. Water removes waste from our body, carries nutrients around our body, helps us digest our food, to sweat, and helps control our body temperature. Water also plays an important part in protecting body tissue, keeping muscles and bones flexible and lubricating our eyes.

We require water for almost every aspect of our lives with the following list providing just a couple of examples:

- Growing our food
- Cooking our food
- Drinking
- Transport of items on our roads
- Manufacture of items both large and small- from the construction of metals such as steel, to the paper we use to write on each day
- Provide us with Electricity
- Making our Clothes
- Watering our Playing Fields and Gardens
- For washing our clothes, dishes and ourselves
- For swimming and boating in



Water: Our Life

A RESOURCE KIT FOR THE YOUNGER
MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITY AND THEIR CARERS

Produced by Maitland City Council with financial support from Hunter Water



Uses of Water

Task: Discuss the words domestic, agricultural and industrial, then move the boxes into the correct column.

Domestic	Agricultural	Industrial

Cooking food

Growing food

Manufacture

Electricity

Watering fields and gardens

Washing clothes, dishes, ourselves

Making clothes

Swimming and boating

Drinking

Transport



Water hasn't always been available directly to people's homes.

Let's investigate how Hunter Valley residents got water in the early 1800s before homes got running tap water.



Key Inquiry Question



How did people of the Hunter Valley get water before it was supplied directly to their homes via Walka Water Works?



To gain an understanding of early Australia
guess what year these places were settled?

Sydney

Newcastle

Maitland

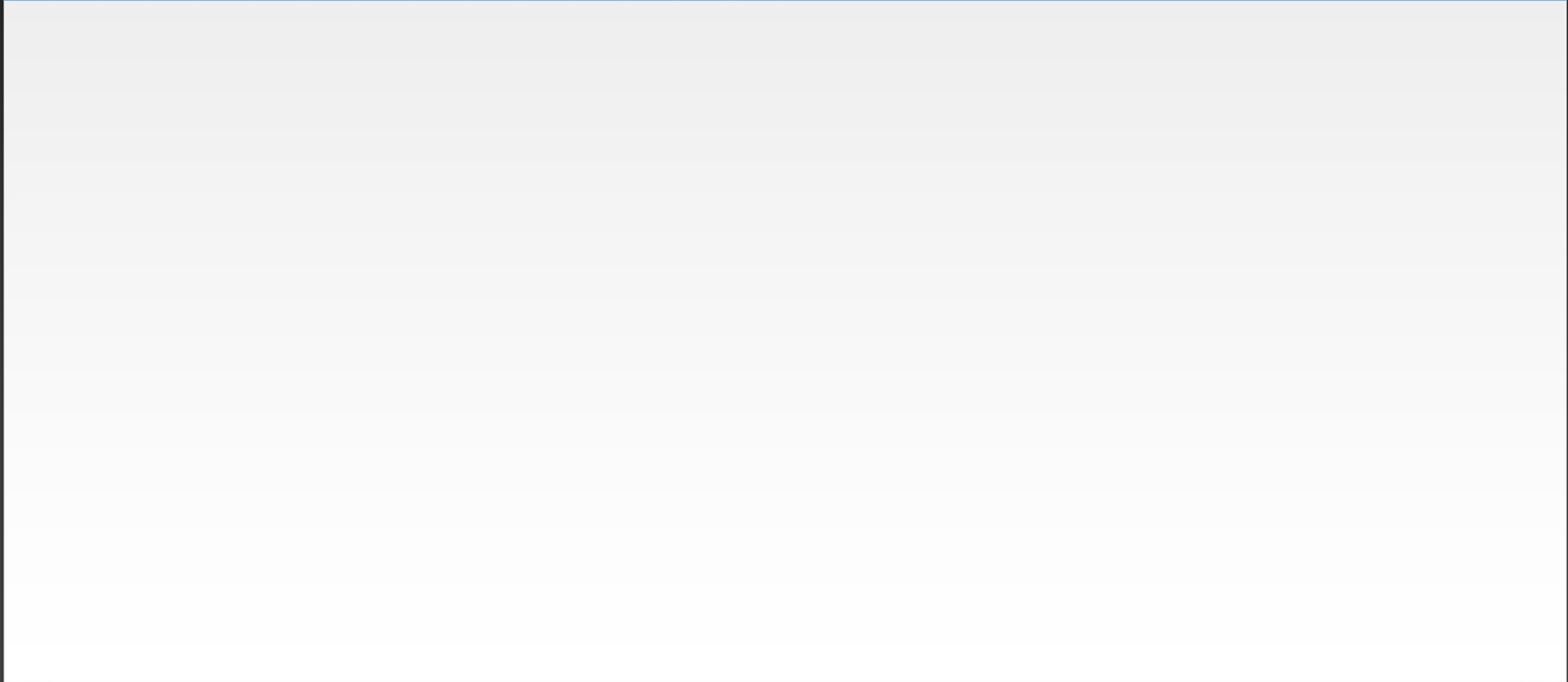


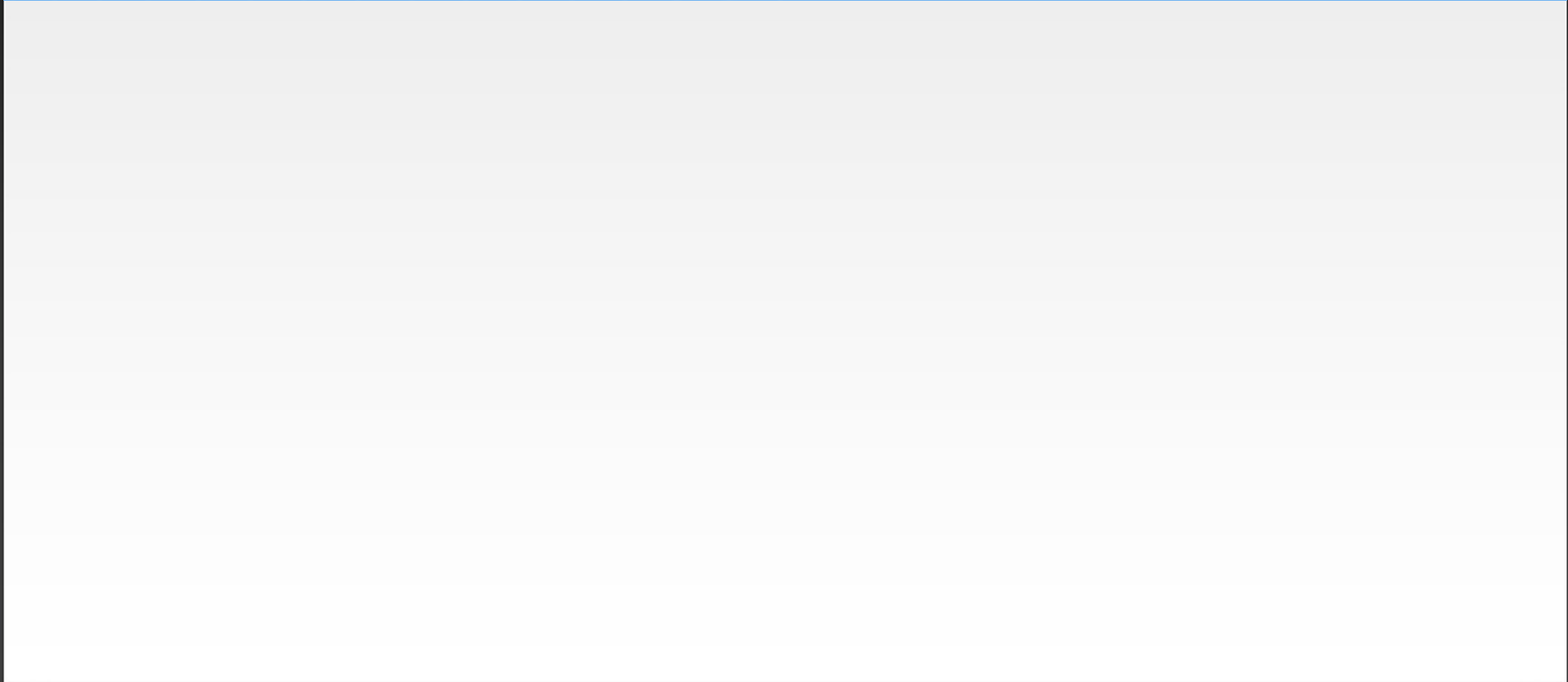
Move boxes to reveal answers

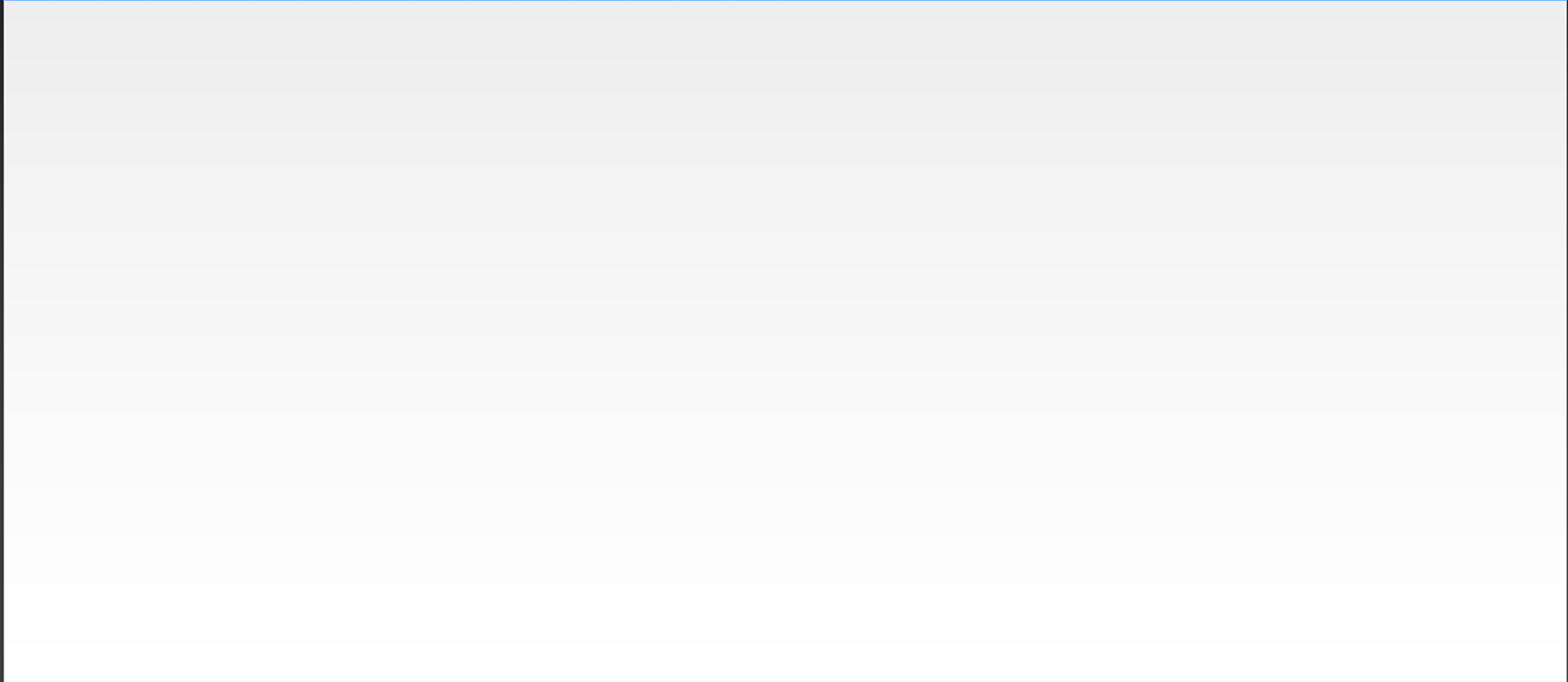


Task: Google these items to find photos of early water carrying techniques and uses. Add images to the following pages and compare/contrast with current methods.

horse drawn water tank
hand dug water well
carrying buckets on a yolk
wooden bucket with rope handles
washing clothes in river history
washing clothes in olden days
early water well pump
inside of an outhouse
sea bathing machines Australia
Australian horse drawn fire wagon









Did you know?

In the 1870s many Novocastrians chose to bathe in the ocean?

Doctors recommended that regular sea bathing and the application of sand 'accompanied by violent friction' was a good alternative to a bath.

Sea bathing was however illegal between 6am and 8pm, and offenders, fully clothed or not, could be fined one pound for **moral depravity**.



Key Inquiry Question



What happened to local water supplies and why did the Hunter Valley need a water treatment facility?



Please note: if we can't use this picture I can add a link to this page and teachers could insert it themselves ©

<https://www.hunterwater.com.au/Resources/Documents/Education/Stage-3/The-Hunter-Water-Journey.pdf> page 5



Task: Examine and discuss this picture, then label it.

Water pump

Brick-lined cesspit

Contaminated creek water seeping into the well

Contaminated groundwater seeping into the well

Outhouse

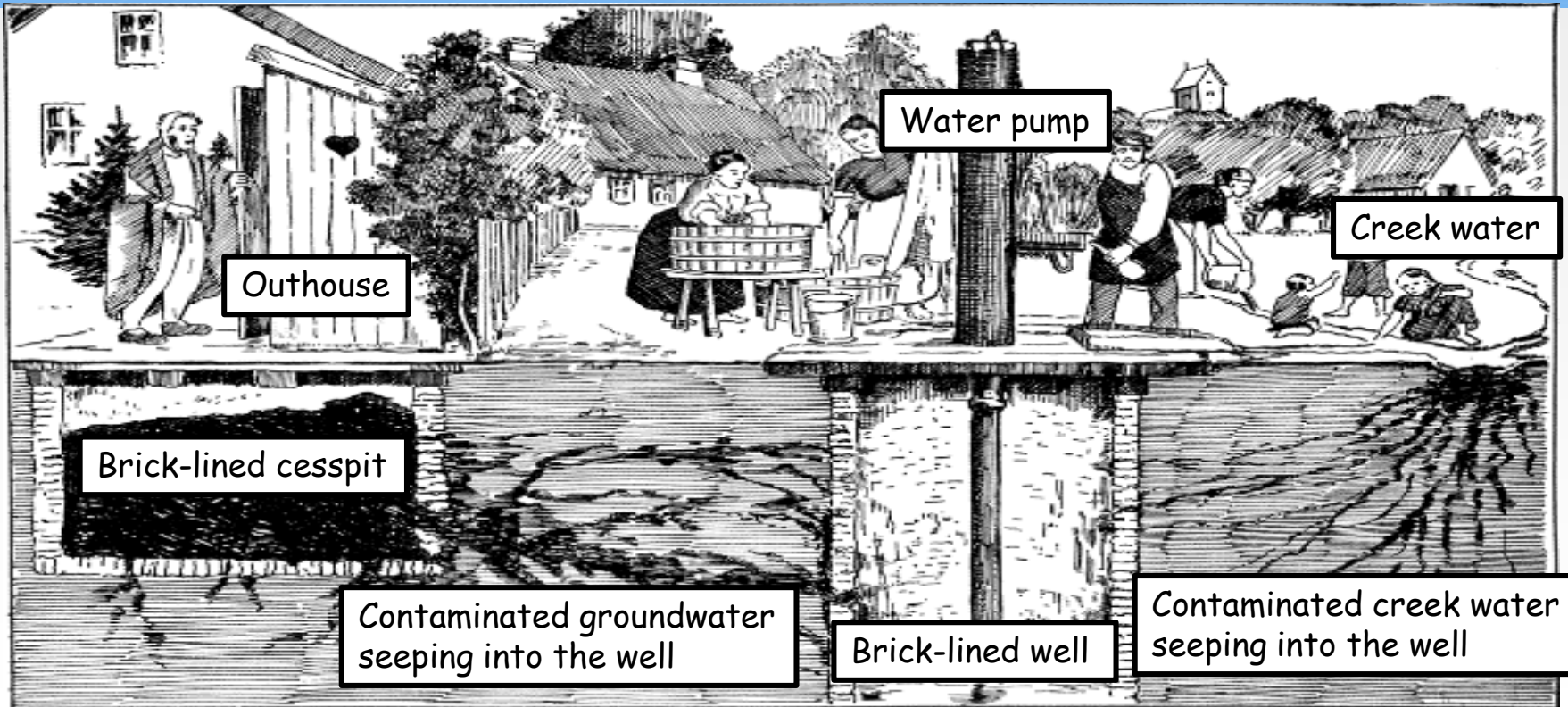
Creek water

Brick-lined well





Answers





Social Significance- Read page 9 of "Walka Water Works: A Detailed Study" to discover what happened to local water supplies.

Task: Highlight key terms and events to find out why the Hunter Valley was in great need of a water treatment facility.



WALKA WATER WORKS

DETAILED STUDY

IT'S HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE



Water sources were often **contaminated**, causing unnecessary illness and death.

Discussion-

What does **contaminated** mean?

Record a definition-

Contaminated means



The Walka Water Works transformed the health of the Hunter Valley's inhabitants by making **filtered** water available to residents.

Discussion-

What does **filtered** mean?

Record a definition-

Filtered means



There was an urgent need for the improvement of the water situation in the Hunter Valley.

In 1875 Newcastle Borough Council established a Water Committee to try to improve the supply to its residents.