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## What is Your Favorite Thing About Water?

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# What is Your Favorite Thing About Water?

Elisabeth Arnold, 2024 Cohort

Water is powerful. Without it, the landscapes we see today would not exist. For billions of years the same water on earth there is now has been forming the world we know. Whether it be a massive glacier or a small stream cutting through a valley, water has the power to leave a lasting impression wherever it passes through. From the largest mountains, to intricate valleys, vast canyons, and quiet streams, water is the main source of much of the natural beauty seen on the planet

Water can also be destructive. Too much in one place at one time may lead to devastating floods. Too little may lead to just as devastating droughts. Floods are the most common and devastating natural disasters in the U.S. and around the world. They lead to billions of dollars in damages each year along with loss of life. Droughts lead to shortages of clean water, increased fire risk, and collapse of ecosystems. Even a small amount of water in a cracked sidewalk can lead to a major change over time. Life relies on water, and is yet sometimes restrained by it.

Water also has the power to bring people together. Of course we all need water to survive, but it also is involved in many people's fondest memories. This is because water is the focal point of a variety of recreational activities. Kayaking, fishing, swimming, boating, and surfing are just a few examples. Even popular tourist destinations usually involve a beach, body of water, or impressive landform created by water. Everyone uses water everyday, probably without thinking twice about it. Many cultures and religions even see water as significant and use it as a leading role in rituals and practices.

My favorite thing about water is the power it holds. It is essential for life and can be destructive at the same time. This is why water deserves to be protected and appreciated. Water is in so many aspects of our lives that we undoubtedly rely on it. While we rely on water, water also relies on us to not misuse it and ensure future generations will be able to enjoy the same activities and form their own memories around water.