

**Worksheet****New York Water Story — Answers**

1. How far does water travel to reach NYC in order to get into your homes?  
*200 miles away*
2. Where does New York City's water come from and where is it stored?  
*Mountain streams and rivers that cover almost 2000 sq/m of land, and it is stored in 19 reservoirs.*
3. How does drinking water travel to New York City?  
*Flows into the city through aqueducts and 2 water tunnels (a third is being worked on)*
4. How is New York City's water kept clean? Is New York City's water checked for salt levels?  
*Chlorine and other chemicals are added to kill disease-causing organisms, and the water is checked for impurities, but salt is not mentioned.*
5. How can you conserve water?  
*Be conscious of using water, turn off sinks while you are brushing your teeth, fix leaking faucets, repair running toilets, install low flow faucets and showerheads, take shorter showers, etc.*
6. After you flush a toilet or water flows into a drain, where does it go first? Why?  
*To water treatment plants around the city that remove the contaminants and waste from the water before being pumped into surrounding water sources.*
7. Why do heavy rains in New York City lead to polluted rivers and bays?  
*Heavy rains wash trash, pollutants, and waste into storm drains/sewers, which overwhelm water treatment plants, so that not only the pollution from the streets, but also raw sewage flows into NYC's water supply.*
8. What can you do to limit the pollution of NYC's water supply?  
*Don't litter, pour anything down the drain that you wouldn't want to drink, pour out chemicals or other pollutants outside of your house, etc.*