

TOPIC: THE IMPORTANCE OF WATER

This topic can be used to highlight:

- awareness of water in our everyday lives
- how much water we use / need every day
- water waste & how to cut down on our consumption
- the provision of water supplies in the UK
- an awareness of global water supply & usage

This can be used as an intro to the other 'Water' topic sheets



EXAMPLE CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES:

We all need water to survive. How many different ways do we use water? In groups, make a colourful poster showing all the things you use water for in one week. Using the images and photos from the 'Uses of Water' folder, can pupils see similarities between how they use water at home and how people in other countries use water? What are the differences in how we use water (e.g. we wash with water from a tap into a sink in the UK but in India they wash with water from a bucket into a bowl). Do pupils think we use more water than the people in the photos? Why might this be?

With an increasing population & over-use of current water supplies, the UK will face drastic water supply problems in years to come. Can pupils come up with a list of how we might waste water at home and in schools? (e.g. leaving taps running, tipping away half-empty jugs of water). What can we do to cut down on the amount of water we use in our houses and schools—(see www.waterwise.org.uk for ideas). Can your class become Water Saving Champions for the whole school? Draw posters to show other pupils how to save water & why - display them in other classrooms, corridors, toilets and kitchens.

How much water do we each use every day to e.g. wash up / cook / wash clothes / shower / flush the loo? Can pupils guess how much water it takes to do all these things? Have a quiz to see who has the closest guess or ask each pupil to keep a diary at home to measure how much water is used per week. The approx amount of water used by individuals in the UK on a daily basis (in litres) is: Bath (80), Shower (40), Flush toilet (10), Brushing teeth with the tap on (10), Drinking (1 litre), Hair wash (4), Washing up by hand (5), Washing up in a dishwasher (40), Washing machine (65), Watering the garden (540 litres an hour), Cooking (1 per pan), Cleaning (5 per bucket). The amount used by individuals in developing countries is 20 litres (link with other topic sheets about transporting water). Do pupils think they could do everything they usually do with just 20 litres of water (or just 2 flushes of the loo / half a shower)? What could they manage without? (e.g. Washing? Flushing the toilet? Drinking?)



FURTHER HELPFUL WEB RESOURCES:

www.waterwise.org.uk/showerpower/ amusing video and downloadable posters starring Kriss Akabusi on how to conserve water by taking shorter showers!

www.waterwise.org.uk/reducing_water_wastage_in_the_uk/media_centre/waterwise_the_fish.html

—Short animated videos about reducing water waste in the UK

www.planet-science.com/outthere/index.html?page=/outthere/plughole/exp_station.html—Outline of 'Using Water Wisely' experiment for primary schools to save, store, analyse and re-use water from sinks