

Water and Cholera

Objectives:

- To explore the health problems caused by drinking polluted water.
- To identify the solutions to problems caused by drinking polluted water.

You will need:

- One copy of the Cholera in Benue State case study to read to the children
- Copies of the 'Problems and Solutions' sheet (one copy for each pair of pupils)

Time: 45-60 minutes

Instructions:

- Read the case study. Explain anything that is not clear e.g. that germs can live in water.
- Children, working in pairs, read the Problems/ Solutions list. After discussion with each other they match up each problem with a solution, by drawing a line or an arrow.
- The children choose one of the problems and create an education poster on the solutions or create a comic strip for use as a teaching aid for hygiene education, using the information provided.



Extension ideas:

- Link this work with work on Victorian public health care and the difference that it made to the well-being of city dwellers in particular.
- Carry out a "Thought Shower" with pupils, identifying ways in which we use water. They may need some prompting on public and industrial use. On a personal level they could keep a water diary over a few days, perhaps over a weekend, to monitor the ways and amounts of water their family uses.
- Do the Water Conservation activity (see: www.learningafrica.org.uk/general/primary)

Resources:

The following resources will help address water related issues in the classroom:

- **Clean Water, A Right for All.** Active project work for children aged 7 to 12. Covers broad environmental issues as well as those more directly water related. Available from UNICEF
- **H2knOw: a Water Activity Pack for Schools.** Contains information on water issues and its use and includes class room activities such as quizzes and games, photo sheets on water and health, access to water. Available from Christian Aid.
- **Water Literate.** Raising issues about water, development and sustainability in rural Tanzania. Photos and activities for persuasive writing, poetry and stories for KS2 (upper primary). Available from Water Aid
- **Water Numerate.** Maths lessons linked to Global Citizenship for Year 6 Term 3 and Year 7 Term 1, with photo posters. Available from Water Aid

Websites:

- **Cool Planet:** www.oxfam.org.uk/coolplanet/water An online resource "Water for All", a slide show with photos, activities, case study for 9 to 11 year olds.
- **Water Aid:** Ages 7-11: http://www.wateraid.org.uk/learn_zone/under_11/ Ages 11-14: http://www.wateraid.org.uk/learn_zone/1114/default.asp Country information, case studies and an online game.

Problems and Solutions

PROBLEMS	SOLUTIONS
1. Shortage of water	A. Proper waste disposal by local council
2. Waste going into the river	B. Keeping food covered, away from flies
3. Lack of hygienic toilets	C. Using water from clean sources
4. Lack of education about healthy living	D. Washing hands before handling food or eating
5. Food contaminated by flies	E. Washing hands after using the toilet
6. Flies carrying germs and diseases	F. Building latrines away from water sources
7. Water source being infected by polluted water	G. Government responsible for clean water provision
8. Stagnant water (water that is still / not moving)	H. Community taking responsibility for keeping the area clean and free of rubbish
9. Rubbish left lying about	I. Education programmes for everyone especially women

Answers: 1/G; 2/A; 3/E; 4/I; 5/B; 6/D; 7/F; 8/C; 9/H