Facilitator notes: KS2 Class-Led Water Assembly

Summary

The assembly/presentation is designed to be run by teachers in their schools with KS2 pupils either as an assembly/presentation or as part of a classroom session.

Throughout the activity pupils are encouraged to think about water on the planet, how they use water and alternative ways of doing everyday things which use water.

At the end of the activity participants are invited to make an environmental promise to their environment.

Aim

To improve children's understanding of the importance of water for life at a global and local level. To encourage pupils to think about their own water consumption and how to waste less water.

Objectives

- To have knowledge of how much water individuals use in the UK
- To take personal responsibility to waste less water
- To have knowledge of how they can save water at home

National Curriculum links

Subject

- Geography – water cycle, origins of water, climate change and sustainability
- Citizenship – active citizenship to promote socially responsible behaviour

Resources

- Props are listed on the script pages

Setting up

The assembly is designed to run for approximately 20 minutes.

The notes can either be used as a script or can be adapted by the teacher to suit the needs of the class and audience.

Assembly

Cast:

N Narrators (in smart bow ties if possible)
P Mad (Einstein like) professors
You can choose any number of pupils to share these roles.

Props:
Long roll of (wall) paper with 1,367,000,000,000,000 litres written on it
Water cycle poster (available at www.stwatereducation.co.uk)
Pie chart (97% saltwater, 2% ice, 1% freshwater)
Pointer for professors
Globe

Optional:
Houseplant, toy fish, camel and elephant
Water bottles
Telescope
Dinosaur, Roman, Egyptian, Tudor
Toothbrush, shower cap, bucket and sponge
Fireman, Doctor/Nurse, Farmer.

Script (to be used or adapted for your class assembly)

Water

N Water is essential for life – for all living things on Planet Earth, not just you and me.

N Have you ever forgotten to water plants in your house? They start to wilt, leaves curl up and flowers fall off after just a few days. They need water to survive and be healthy.

P Most plants living on land can only live without water for a few weeks.

P Camels are specially adapted to live in dry deserts and can survive for two weeks without drinking.

P Elephants however need to drink every day and will be dangerously ill after only two days without water.

P People also need water every day and you should be taking in 2 litres of water a day to stay healthy and strong (remember all our food and drinks contain water).

P Fish can only live for a few minutes without water.

Global

N	We are so lucky because we are surrounded by water. *Show globe*
P	The Earth is sometime called the Blue Planet because of all the water you can see on the surface of the Earth. More than two thirds of the Earth's surface is covered in water.
P	Scientists have estimated there is 1,367 trillion litres of water on Earth. *Un-roll number for audience (1,367,000,000,000,000 litres)*[1]
P	So far astronomers have not found another planet that has got this much water.
N	Because of all this water we have a planet full of beautiful living things.
N	So is water important? If you agree say YES.
N	We can't hear you, is water important?
N	Do you know how old the water is on Earth? Can you guess?
P	Water on Earth is over four billion years old, water was formed at the same time our planet was formed.
P	Four billion years ago there was 1367 trillion litres of water; today there is exactly the same amount of water.
P	The Earth does not make or lose water, it just goes around and around the planet in something called the water cycle.
N	Professors, can you explain this for us please? *Poster of water cycle, professor(s) with pointer to explain the water cycle very briefly. Can be done as a song with actions.* *Stress that the fresh water in rivers and lakes comes from rain*
N	That means the water we drink today is possibly the same water the dinosaurs/pharaohs/Romans/Tudors etc drank YUCK!
N	Thank you for that lovely thought. So we have found out that we have huge amounts of water on Earth.
N	And all life depends on this water. Our class has found out that we are very short of water on Earth, even here in [name of town]
N	That doesn't make sense, how can we have lots of water but be short of it?

N	Professors, can you help explain?
	Hold up Pie Chart and use pointer to illustrate points below
P	Well the problem is that we have different sorts of water on Earth, in fact 97% of the water…
N	That is almost all of it!
P	…is found in the oceans and seas. Have you ever tried drinking sea water?
N	Yuck, it's very salty.
P	2% of all the water on Earth is locked up as a solid in ice in the Arctic (North Pole) and Antarctic (South Pole).
P	That leaves only 1% as liquid, fresh water. This water is found in streams, rivers, lakes, reservoirs and in rocks under the ground.
P	And it is this fresh water that every living land animal and plant depends on to live, including us human beings.
N	But 1% of trillions of water is still a lot of water. It is all the water in all the rivers in the world like the Amazon and the Nile, and the river Severn and river Trent. I still do not understand why people are saying 'we a running short of fresh water?'
P	There is lots of fresh water but it has to be shared by all the 6.7 billion people in the world.
P	And there are more people every year living on Earth. Remember the amount of water on Earth is fixed so that means there is less and less water available for each person as the population increases. The population here in Britain is also increasing.
P	There is also something called Climate Change and this means that in Britain we are likely to have less rainfall when we need it in the future which means less fresh water in rivers and lakes.
	Local
N	This all sounds very serious but what can I do about it? I do not use river water or lake water. My water comes from the tap and there is always plenty of water there.
P	But have you ever thought where the water from your tap comes from? Here is a clue, it is not salty so it cannot come from the sea.

P	It comes from rivers or man made lakes called reservoirs or from water that has soaked into the ground.
P	Remember all the water in the rivers and lakes comes from rain so the water from your tap is basically rainwater
P	That has been cleaned by the Severn Trent Water, our water company and pumped to our taps through pipes under the ground.
N	But if there is more and more people…
N	…and less and less rainfall…
P	…there will be less water available to come out of your taps.
P	We are very lucky in this country because even with climate change we should have more than enough water to go around.
P	But not if we continue to waste it! We all need to learn to use a little less water.
P	Our school has realised that we are all using too much water and have had special taps and toilet flushes fitted that will save water (and money) for the school.
P	But these taps can only work if we all learn to be more careful when using water in school.
P	Taps must be turned off, any dripping taps or constantly flushing toilets need to be reported to the Site Manager/Caretaker (Mr/Mrs…….) so they can be quickly fixed.
P	But we also need to use less water at home. Here are some ways that we can do it…
P	Turn off the tap while brushing your teeth (saves 5 litres every minute)
P	Spend a minute less in the shower (in a year you could save 10,000 litres and lots of energy!)
P	Modern dishwashers use less water than washing up by hand (dishwashers can save 28 litres a wash if used when full)
P	Encourage your family to water plants with a watering can rather than a hose or sprinkler (hosepipes waste 1,000 litres of water every hour. That's more water used in an hour than a family of four can use in two days.)
N	If you want to help save water to make sure everyone that needs it can get water from their taps listen to Mr/Miss…… and make a promise to waste less water.

Teacher	The company that supplies the water to our school is called Severn Trent Water and they are pleased we are trying to waste less water and have asked every one of us in this school to make a promise and keep a record of what you have done to save water.
	(1) Source: Igor Shiklomanov's chapter "World fresh water resources" in Peter H. Gleick (editor), 1993, Water in Crisis: A Guide to the World's Fresh Water Resources (Oxford University Press, New York).