

Facilitator notes: KS3/4 self-led Assembly

Summary

The assembly/presentation is designed to be run by teachers in their schools to KS3 or KS4 pupils either as an assembly/presentation or as part of a classroom session.

Throughout the activity students 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 visit Severn Trent Water's website www.stwater/education. On this site they will be able to calculate the amount of water they use in everyday life and find out how they might change their behaviour to use less water.

Aim

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 about how they can save water at home
- To have some understanding of global water issues

National Curriculum links

Subject

- Active Citizenship
- Geography
- Debating a global issue, Global issue, Local action

Resources

- Powerpoint with relevant photos
- Blu-tack or PowerPoint and projector
- Whiteboard/flipchart with pens
- 20 litre water container (can be full to demonstrate weight of water)
- Props: Toothbrush, dirty plate, shower head, bucket and sponge

For further background information see resources at
www.stwater.co.uk/education

Preparation

Make a Powerpoint presentation with the images that accompany these assembly note *or* print the following photos available at A4 size:

- Tap with a lock on it
- Shared stand pipe (developing world Picture)
- Well (developing world Picture)
- Tanker (developing world Picture)
- River (developing world Picture)
- Shared stand pipe (developed world Picture)
- A Severn Trent Water water bowser (developed world Picture)
- Images of water saving devices used in retrofit schools

Optional - A3 posters with the following text printed:

- In the UK, we use 130-150 litres of water per person per day
- The global average for water use is 20 litres per person per day
- The salt waters of the oceans and seas account for 97% of the world's water, 2% is locked in ice caps, leaving only 1% as fresh water for all of humanity's needs
- 2/3 of people in the world now have water supply in their homes
- 1/5 of the world's population have no access to safe, clean water
- 80% of sickness in the world is caused by unclean water

Setting up

Ensure you have printed off the required photos (if required) and prepared blu-tack to quickly stick to a wall or window.

Running the activity: instructions

The wording in red indicates a photo to be used to illustrate the point being made. These photos can be left on display after the assembly to aid students' memory.

Introduction

Display this 'do not use the water' photograph.



What does this photograph show? Why do you think it has a red cross on it? (Give time for pupils to respond. Allow for imaginative responses).

This is not something we often see in the UK. We are used to water being on tap (pardon the pun!) 24 hours a day, seven days a week. But things may be changing here in the UK – why do you think that might be? (Rhetorical question)

Population increase, increased consumption per person, less rain due to climate change, pollution of water sources.....

Local/Global section

Ask pupils:

- How many times they have already turned on a tap today? Write the highest number on the board/chart.
- How many of them had baths (100 litres approx) or showers (50 litres approx) today? Write the total number of litres on the board/chart.
- Have they flushed a toilet? They all should have done, so multiply the total pupils in the school, plus staff by 10 litres. Write the total on the board/chart and add with the bath/shower total.
- Have they brushed their teeth? They all should have done, so multiply the total pupils in the school, plus staff by 5 litres). Write and add to the total water use.
- In what other ways have they used water?

- So already today by [actual time e.g. 9:15am] we have all used xxx litres of water. Circle total on the board.
- ***How different would their day have been, if they did not have access to clean water?***

Ask for a volunteer. Give them a chance to lift the container full of water. It should represent approximately 20 litres of water. (If this is not possible, halve the amount and adjust the measurements accordingly).

Tell pupils that ***2/3 of the world's population do not have taps in their homes*** so they have to carry water from a water source in containers like this one. Where would they get the water from?

Put up pictures with blu-tack on the wall or window as they are suggested.

Shared stand pipe (developing world picture)

Well (developing world picture)

Tanker (developing world picture)

River (developing world picture)

Point to the container and ask pupils how long they think this amount of water would last them. (In fact, it would not last them even one day - in the UK the average daily consumption of water is ***130 litres per person per day*** about 7 containers worth!).

Ask pupils how long it would last a person in the developing world. (The average is about ***20 litres per person per day***. It would therefore last them one day which means someone has to go out and fetch water every single day.)

Refer back to the container of water. Take out five tablespoons of water and put them in a glass. Explain to pupils that that if all the earth's water were in the container, the amount of available fresh water would equal about five tablespoons. ***Nearly 97% of the world's water is undrinkable or salty. Another 2% is locked in ice caps and glaciers. This leaves just 1% for all of humanity's needs.*** It is the same amount of water since the formation of the Earth, no new water is made or lost, it goes around the water cycle. This means that every glass of water contains some water that may have been drunk before – possibly by dinosaurs or pharaohs or your next door neighbour!

The world's supply of fresh water is therefore a small, fixed volume but it is getting an increasingly scarce resource for humans and it is also important that it is clean. Unsafe water is responsible for ***80% of all the sickness in the world.*** Severn Trent Water treats the water that comes to your homes, making it clean and safe for you to drink.

Taking it home section

What else can you do to make a difference? Save water in your own homes!

Show props: Toothbrush, dirty plate, shower head, bucket and sponge

- Do you turn off the tap while brushing your teeth? (You can save 5 litres of water every minute by doing this).
- Do you turn off the tap when washing the dishes? (This will save between 2 and 18 litres of water).
- Do you take baths or showers? (Taking a bath can use 80+ litres of water. A four minute shower uses half the water of a bath).
- Wash cars with a bucket of water instead of a hosepipe, collect rainwater for the garden in a water butt.

Simply by turning the tap off while brushing your teeth, you could save up to 12 litres of water every day. Customers who have done this have saved 4,300 litres of water a year – proving that every one of us can make a difference. Make a lifelong change today and turn the tap off!

Severn Trent Water has some useful resources on their website about the importance of wasting less water.

Go to: www.stwater.co.uk/savewater for more information.

By trying the home water audit on the Severn Trent Water website, families can learn about how to save water in their home and to see where savings can be made.

Final word

Ask pupils what they think should happen with the water used during this assembly. How could it be put to good use?