

Water for harvest Water for life

Secondary school appeal 2006

WaterAid/Marco Betti

“If we go to the toilet in open areas diseases come, so we use the latrines. I like school as we learn things.”

Rajendra, a pupil at Premnaga Primary School, Panchat Nathupra, India

WaterAid is the UK's only major charity dedicated exclusively to the provision of safe domestic water, sanitation and hygiene education to the world's poorest people.

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Suggested activities

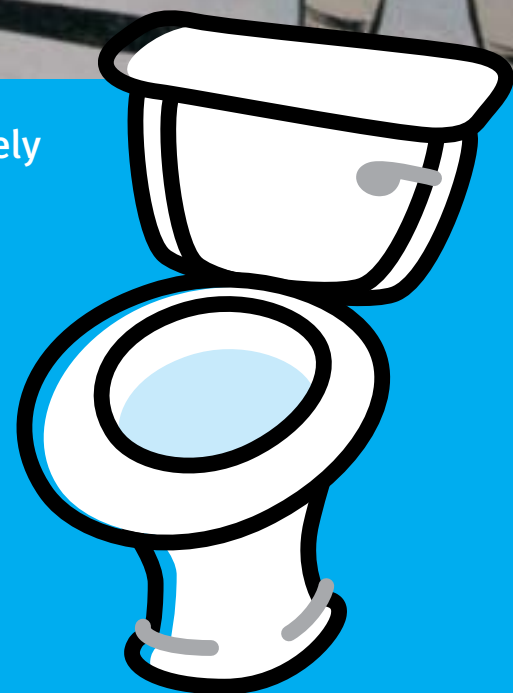
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Information about online resources including slide shows, drama sketches and more

25 YEARS 1981-2006
WaterAid

Charity registration number 288701

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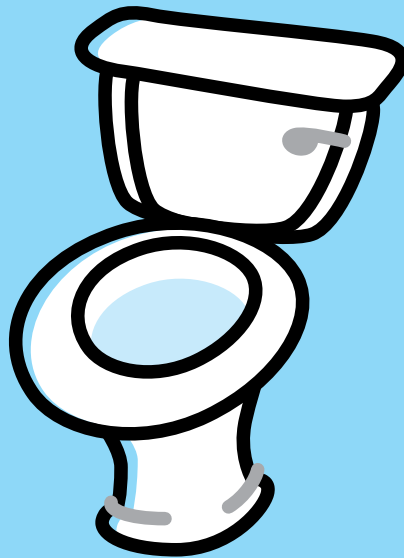
Harvest time and WaterAid

More than one billion people worldwide do not have access to clean water, and over two and a half billion people do not have anywhere safe to go to the toilet. Please support WaterAid this harvest time to help give water for harvest and water for life.

Just £15 is enough to provide one person in the developing world with a lasting supply of clean water, sanitation and hygiene education. WaterAid works in some of the poorest countries in Africa, Asia and the Pacific region, helping individuals and their families dig wells, install handpumps and latrines and learn about good hygiene practices such as handwashing. These projects are practical, cheap, easy to maintain and will last long into the future.



WaterAid/Marco Betti



World Toilet Day

Around 2.2 million children die every year from diarrhoea, 80% of them in the first two years of life. Yet something as simple as washing hands with soap and water can reduce the risk of diarrhoeal disease by 40%. Why not make this year's World Toilet Day, 19 November, the finale to your Harvest Festival? Fundraise for WaterAid, raise awareness of the importance of good hygiene and sanitation and give something back to poorer communities across Africa, Asia and the Pacific region. For more information please visit www.wateraid.org/WTD

Don't forget to wash your hands



WaterAid/Marco Betti

“We learn that you need to wash your hands before eating food and after going to the toilet, after games, after cleaning the house and before serving meals. I have a latrine at home too.”
Pinki, a pupil at Premnega Primary School, Panchat Nathupra, India

At Premnega Primary School in Panchat Nathupra, India, schoolchildren learn about all aspects of hygiene education. Murals reminding children to wash their hands decorate the toilet block and the school also has a handpump provided by the Government. Pupils have formed a water committee to keep the pump clean and the run-off now waters the school garden, which is also maintained by the children. Pupils on the water committee bring water nearer to the classrooms so that children can have a drink easily.

Children are often more open to talking about and changing their hygiene habits than adults. Learning the importance of good hygiene at an early age means that children are more likely to pass on good advice to their parents, siblings and friends.



Umadevi, vice-president of Premnaga water committee and handpump mechanic, with her latrine

WaterAid/Marco Betti

the safe disposal of children's faeces and safe drinking water storage. In many parts of the developing world people do not connect these habits with being able to prevent disease. It is these simple messages that WaterAid promotes to communities and they do work! It has been proven that the simple act of handwashing can reduce diarrhoeal diseases by 40%.

WaterAid works in 17 countries helping to provide some of the world's poorest people with access to clean water, sanitation and hygiene education. WaterAid helps people to build latrines (another word for toilets) and trains hygiene educators to spread the word about the importance of keeping clean and washing your hands after going to the toilet. Many of these educators are the same age as you and are responsible for making sure that their friends and family are practising good hygiene and remain healthy.

Assembly outline

Four out of ten people in the world, more than two and a half billion people, do not have somewhere safe and clean to go to the toilet. The majority of these people live in Asia where just over half the population live without adequate sanitation.

Poor sanitation means bad health. Bacteria, viruses and parasites found in human waste are responsible for the transmission of cholera, typhoid and other infectious diseases that kill millions of people every year.

Mahatma Gandhi once said, "Sanitation is more important than independence." Understanding the connection between hygiene and disease can save lives. It is important that increased knowledge is also combined with practical solutions such as the installation of basic latrines.

Having access to sanitation – the simple benefit of having a toilet – is something that we often taken for granted and sometimes find hard to take seriously. It may be hard to believe but toilets have only been commonplace in the UK in the last 150 years. Before that, human waste was disposed of in the streets and in nearby water supplies. Unsurprisingly this was, and in many countries around the world still is, a major cause of disease.

The average person in the developing world uses just 10 litres of water a day. This is the same amount as just one flush of a normal loo. As a result water

in developing countries tends to be prioritised for drinking and cooking. WaterAid works with communities to provide sanitation and hygiene education alongside the provision of water and it is this three-pronged approach that will have a lasting impact on reducing poverty and the health of the world's poorest people.

Most people are only too happy to use clean water for drinking, cooking and bathing once it is readily available. But other hygiene practices are also crucial in preventing the water and sanitation-related diseases like cholera, dysentery and typhoid that result in two million deaths a year. These practices include

We will be supporting WaterAid this week as part of our Harvest Festival to give water for harvest and water for life. We will be learning more about how children in India learn good hygiene practices and will be fundraising to help WaterAid to continue with their vital work.

Just remember next time you flush the toilet that you have just used all the water that one person in the developing world may have for an entire day. By supporting WaterAid you can help some of the world's poorest people to gain access to the clean water, sanitation and hygiene education that you forget in a flush!



Usha with baby Barsana, from Madhya Pradesh, India. Now children with diarrhoea are taken to the doctor

WaterAid/Marco Betti

Case studies



WaterAid/Marco Betti

“My family were living in very bad conditions. My children went to school very dirty, but after understanding the messages I started keeping my house clean, practising food hygiene and keeping my children clean. I have seen the changes in myself and we are always happy. We always used to have diarrhoea and vomiting but we have not had anything for the last year. Even now the sales of soap are increasing in our village, we never used to clean our clothes but now we are also doing this. I am taking care that flies do not sit on food, and do not contaminate water. Every 15 days we clean the street.”
Gauribai Oghare, Patel Pali village, India

Varsha (left) and Niladari (right) from Kinjodebari village, Chhattisgarh, India



WaterAid/Marco Betti

Fifteen year old Varsha Bareth is a member of a hygiene group. Here she explains how the members of the group learn about hygiene issues and teach others about the importance of good hygiene.

“Our group has 20 members. We are spreading the messages and observing that people are following them.

We used to get stomach problems but now people are taking care of handwashing before food, after food, after defecation and we all want to get latrines.

We meet weekly in the afternoon. We are saving 20 rupees weekly, and we discuss what we are going to do. We share these messages with our parents.”

Varsha’s friend, fourteen year old Niladari Gupta, is also a member of the group. She explains the impact that safe water and sanitation has on her daily life.

“We have a safe water supply. I get it from a water tank. It is safe because the water tank is cleaned every month. The latrines are under construction at my school. At the moment I go in the open and I am looking forward to the privacy.”



WaterAid/Marco Betti

“If we have dirty hands we should wash them with soap, otherwise bugs will go inside our stomachs and we will get diseases. We should wash our hands before eating and after defecation.”

Pankuvar, a pupil at Premnaga Primary School, Panchat Nathupra, India

Citizenship Key Stage 3, Unit 10: Debating a global issue

This lesson plan will:

- Develop knowledge and understanding of how to become an informed citizen
- Develop skills of enquiry and communication
- Develop skills of participation and responsible action

Background

At the United Nations Millennium Summit in 2000 the United Nations members agreed eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to halve world poverty by 2015:

1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
2. Achieve universal primary education
3. Promote gender equality and empower women
4. Reduce child mortality by two thirds for children under five
5. Improve maternal health
6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
7. Ensure environmental sustainability
8. Develop a global partnership for development

The task

Divide the pupils into up to eight groups and allocate each group one of the MDGs. Each group will act as a WaterAid campaigns groups lobbying the European Community (represented by the teacher and the rest of the class) for more investment in water, sanitation and hygiene education. Each group will need to present a case as to why increased funding for these essential services will help achieve their allocated MDG.

This presentation should be given using Information Communication Technology resources and should include at least one case study of one country with water supply problems.

The class should have a discussion at the end of the presentations and vote on whether or not they think that increased funding in water, sanitation and hygiene education will help achieve each MDG.

WaterAid online resources

Here are some suggestions for resources that may be particularly helpful for this lesson plan:

- Access to presentation and desktop publishing software and the internet
- www.wateraid.org/MDG
- www.un.org/millenniumgoals
- www.unesco.org/water

Please go to the WaterAid School Harvest website – www.wateraid.org/schoolharvest – to find more online resources. You will be able to access and download lesson plans and drama sketches for Key Stages 1-3, view slide shows and view clips of the WaterAid film *Water for life*. You will also find activities based on hygiene education lessons in India to take part in with your class, links to World Toilet Day activities and to our brand new fundraising website which will guide you and your class through all the ideas and information you need for great fundraising activities.

“I didn’t like having to cross the road, I was afraid of the insects. I am much happier using the latrine in the house. I can now go to the toilet on my own. Before when I needed to go in the night I had to wake my father up to come with me as I was scared.”
Sonu, with his father (below), Madhya Pradesh, India



WaterAid/Marco Betti



What your money could buy

£4 pays for a hygiene education manual in Ghana

£40 pays for a health worker to provide hygiene education to 850 people in a rural community in Ethiopia

£160 pays for five days of training for one teacher in Tanzania to facilitate 'child to child' hygiene education where children explain the importance of good hygiene to their peers

£385 pays for a school sanitation block for 150 boys and girls in India

£750 constructs a hand-dug well with a handpump bringing water to up to 200 people in Zambia

£1400 pays for six months of water committee training and hygiene education in one community in Mozambique

WaterAid will use your gift where the need is greatest to provide lasting supplies of clean safe water and effective sanitation in the 17 countries in which we are working today.

Why fundraise for WaterAid?

Hana Sbahi and her classmates in Year 7 at Old Palace School of John Whitgift in Croydon raised money for WaterAid this year. Hana had a very personal reason why she felt it was so important to support WaterAid.

"Whilst researching my biology homework on clean water I happened to come across your website. I had an inspiration suddenly and my thoughts rushed back to the past. In 2001 one of my cousins Seems died from cholera by drinking a cup of dirty water in India. She was just nine years old at the time. She was so gentle and thoughtful – her mother loved her so much. The assembly gave me a chance to express my emotions. My class all thought it was a good idea to fundraise and we decided to encourage people to help your charity. People certainly gave generously! We raised £179.32."

More fundraising ideas

Tree of life – collect together all your spare coins and arrange them to represent a harvest tree of life, then fundraise to help it grow. When you have finished you can donate all the coins you saved to WaterAid.

Smartie pants collecting tube – did you know that an empty Smarties tube holds about £15 in 20p pieces? A full Smarties tube could provide one person in the developing world with a lasting supply of clean water, sanitation and hygiene education.

Have a tuck sale – celebrate your school harvest with traditional harvest recipes and sell the food to raise money for WaterAid. Visit www.wateraid.org/schoolharvest for ideas.

Disco ducky – have a welly disco or a blue themed Halloween party and donate the profits to WaterAid.

Drink More Water week – give up fizzy drinks for the week and get sponsored to drink water instead. Find out how much you need at www.wateraid.org/drinkwater

"We tell our parents about the hygiene messages we learn at school. We all practise good hygiene at home, and our parents do too. Our parents didn't know about these things before. When people come to our house, I am always telling them to wash their hands. We used to get worms, but we don't anymore."

Saroj (above right), a pupil at Premnaga Primary School, Panchat Nathupra, India



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