

Youth group activities

Harvest
Appeal
2019



Here are some fun, easy ideas to engage the younger members of your group. The activities are recommended for ages 7+ but can be adapted for other age groups too.

Activity 1: Harvest word game

This short, interactive session will help the group to think more about what harvest means, and how clean water can give other people harvests they can celebrate.



You will need:

- ♦ The letters of the word 'harvest' printed on individual cards
- ♦ Ivy's story (downloadable at wateraid.org/uk/harvest)

To play: Show the group that the letters make up the word 'harvest'. What does this word mean to the group? Now mix them up and ask the group what different words they can make using the letters.

Now have a discussion with your group. Does anyone think they have any words that link to harvest? Can they explain why? There are four words we can make that remind us what harvest is about. Give clues to the group and encourage discussion about why these words are important:

- 1. Have:** Harvest is an opportunity to remember and reflect on the many things that we have: the food in our cupboards, the dinner on our tables, clean water when we turn on the tap.
- 2. Eat:** Harvest is a time to celebrate our crops and give thanks for having plenty of food to eat.
- 3. Starve:** Harvest is a time to remember those who are not as fortunate as us and don't have enough to eat or drink.

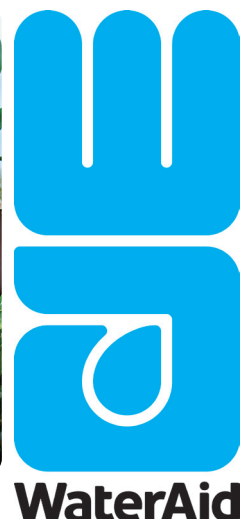
- 4. Share:** Harvest is a time to share what we have with those who are not so fortunate. How can we do this? Explain your group's charitable giving over harvest, and that this year you're supporting WaterAid so that other communities will have a harvest to celebrate too.

Just two years ago, the village of Milimo in Zambia didn't have clean water. During dry season everyone was hungry because they couldn't grow food. Now the village has a borehole giving them clean water all year. They can grow food, have plenty to eat and drink, and earn money.

Reflect on what the four words above could mean to Milimo village before and after it got its borehole, and what the support from groups like yours can help to achieve.



Ivy can now grow crops using water from the borehole. Milimo village, Zambia.



Activity 2: Food around the world

This reflective session will help the group think about food and harvests across the world, what makes a good or bad harvest, and the essential role that clean water plays.

You will need:

- ◆ A globe or world map
- ◆ Ruth's story (downloadable at wateraid.org/uk/harvest)



Start your session by explaining that you're going to be talking all about food and cooking.

Begin by asking everyone about their favourite food. Do they like cooking? Can they explain how their favourite dish is prepared? What ingredients do they need? Does their favourite dish come from another country? Can they show it on the map / globe?

Now look at the map / globe, and ask the group to think about **different foods and ingredients coming from different continents** (for example: rice in India and China; potatoes in Russia; yams in West Africa; maize/corn in Zambia).

Ask the group where they think people were able to celebrate a good harvest this year? And can they think of countries where people won't be able to harvest much this year?

Now can they think about all the things that can make a good or bad harvest (for example: climate and rainfall, financial resources, the availability of people to work, wars)?

Explain that one ingredient you'll always need whatever you're trying to grow or cook is water – can they imagine how they would grow plants or make dinner if clean water wasn't available?

You can share the story of Ruth – how her village in Zambia doesn't have any clean water, so she has to dig holes in the streambed. The water she collects is dirty and makes her family sick. She can't grow vegetables or crops because there's nothing to water the plants with. Everyone in her village is hungry during the dry season. Ruth would love to celebrate a good harvest, but without clean water she can't.

By raising money for WaterAid this harvest, your group will be helping more people like Ruth get clean water, so they can celebrate harvest time too.

"This year our crops have failed due to lack of rain. Our harvest will not be good. More people in our community will face hunger." Ruth, Mabula village, Zambia

