

THE CLIMATE CHANGE AND WATER STORY - AS TOLD BY YOUNG PEOPLE

CLIMATE WARRIORS WORKSHOP PLAN

Follow this guide to facilitate a workshop demonstrating the link between climate change and water – producing a piece of artwork to exhibit at COP26 in the process.

Structure

- Introduction: sessions overview and brief introduction to WaterAid
- Icebreaker game: sink or swim
- Making the link with climate change
- Becoming Climate Warriors

Aims

- Explain what climate change is and how it is linked to water
- Describe how climate change is already affecting people across the world
- Discuss how political change happens, and the impact of COP26

Materials

- Writing paper and pens/pencils
- White and blue scrap card
- Paint/coloured pens/pencils
- Glue
- Tank/tub/bucker of water

INTRODUCTION

Session overview and brief intro to WaterAid

- Today's session is called Climate Warriors!
- My name is _____ and this activity has been created by a charity called WaterAid. Has anyone heard of WaterAid before?
- WaterAid is a charity which works in 28 countries to bring clean water, decent toilets and good hygiene to everyone, everywhere. We'll learn a bit more about this later.
- Today we will be playing some games and learning about climate change. And most importantly, we'll show you how to become a Climate Warrior!

ICEBREAKER GAME

Sink or swim

(Collect household items to drop into a tank of water. Before you drop the item, ask the young people if they think each item will sink or swim)

Now use this game to lead onto conversations about water and WaterAid:

- Where did the water in this container come from?
- What could we do with this water now?
- Why is it important to re-use and not waste water?
- Do you have access to clean water in your homes?
- Did you know there are some people in the world that don't have access to clean water?



At WaterAid, we work in places which don't have access to clean water. It might seem strange to us, but:

- there are actually 785 million people across the world who don't have access to clean water close to home
- there are also 2 billion people who don't have a decent toilet of their own. So where do these people go to the toilet?

Here are some fun water facts: (you could ask the young people to guess the numbers or facts)

- We only have a set amount of water on this earth. It just keeps getting recycled in the water cycle. This means we drank the same water that the dinosaurs drank!!
- Our bodies are made up of 50 – 60% water
- 70% of the earth's surface is water – but most of this water we can't drink as it's salt sea water!
- Only 2.5% of our water on earth is fresh water!
- We can only get to 1% of the water, as the rest is trapped in snow or ice.

MAKING THE LINK WITH CLIMATE CHANGE

Our session today is called Climate Warriors...but what does water have to do with climate change? Can anybody tell us?

(flooding, droughts...)

Definition of climate change: the long-term change in our weather

- Our climate does change naturally. Can anyone think of an example of this? (ice age, the big stink)
- **HOWEVER:** humans are making the climate change more than it should. Does anyone know why this is happening?
- Humans do things which cause pollution, such as driving cars and using energy to power our homes. This energy comes from fossil fuels. When we burn fossil fuels, this releases bad gases.



- Does anyone know the name of some of these gases? (carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide)
- These gases trap heat inside the earth atmosphere. Kind of like a greenhouse. Does anyone know that name of this? (the greenhouse effect!)

How can we see that climate change is happening?

- Flooding
- Droughts
- Temperatures rising
- Species becoming extinct
- Forest fires
- Melting glaciers
- Rising sea levels

Look how many of these things are linked to water! Some of these things are affecting people in the UK, and lots are affecting people in countries around the world.

BECOMING CLIMATE WARRIORS

So, what can we do about all of this? Can we make a change? Can we make a difference? **Yes, we can!**

Today, we will become Climate Warriors! And to do this, we need to get our voices heard. Voices from one person can be powerful (Greta Thunberg), but voices from many can be even stronger!

Demonstrate how one voice can be heard, but 5, 10 or 15 voices all together are much louder! Ask 1 student to say climate change, and then 5, and 10, 15 – this will allow them to hear the difference.

So, let's make people listen - together! But who do we need to hear us? People in charge of countries around the world are called governments. They make decisions about lots of things about the country. Does anyone know what the decisions they make affect? (health, education, schools, services – including water.)



Governments make decisions based on lots of things – but they must listen to the people in their countries. We can tell them that we care about everyone, everywhere having access to clean water – especially when it's threatened by climate change. How do we do this, well... there is a big climate change decision-making event in November that lots of governments will be at – called COP26!

During the next part of the workshop, you can become a climate warrior by making a piece of artwork in the square WaterAid provided.

(Template provided on WaterAid website: www.wateraid.org/climate-water-art
Artwork must fit on 15cm x 15cm piece of paper or card)

You can work on your own, or you can team up with others! It's up to you!

WaterAid are asking young people around the world to create some artwork to show they care about people whose access to clean water is already damaged or affected by climate change. WaterAid will take this artwork to the big climate change event to show that young people worldwide want this to change.

WaterAid are hoping that by combining our voices together, we will all have a bigger impact – and governments around the world will make sure having access to clean water is a priority, especially in the face of climate change.

Don't forget to send your artwork to the address on the pack, or you can take a photo and ask an adult to email it to ClimateAndWaterArt@wateraid.org – that way you can keep your artwork if you want.

Don't forget to check back on the webpage above to see the finished exhibition. The artwork will be at COP26 on 12 November!

Thank you so much for sharing your artwork for a great cause, and being a Climate Warrior.

