

Harvest Festival activities

Introduction

Harvest festival is a fantastic opportunity for children to learn about the food we are able to grow and enjoy. But not all communities have enough water to produce crops, and climate change is also having a big impact on global rain patterns.

Get your class involved with WaterAid's life-giving bottles Harvest Appeal with our fun classroom activities, and make a real change for communities affected by climate change.



Life-giving
bottles
Harvest 2017

Aims

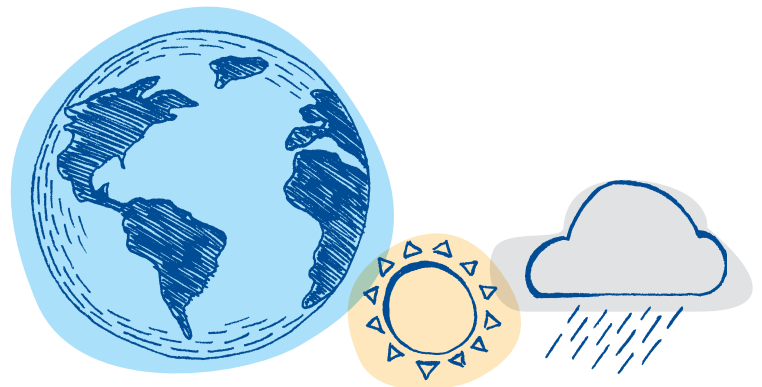
- To consider the effects of not having clean water and sanitation.
- To consider what is needed for crops to grow.
- To take action towards helping people gain access to safe water and sanitation.

Activity one: Climate change

30 mins

You will need:

- A3 paper
- Scissors
- WaterAid bottle gauges
- Empty plastic bottles
- Colourful card and paper
- Pens and pencils
- Zambia country briefing (page 1)



Explain that in this session you will be focusing on climate change.

Hand out copies of the Zambia Country briefing and ask for volunteers to read through page 1 only.

Now split the children into groups and, considering Orine's story, ask them to write out everything they know about climate change. Afterwards ask them to share some of the things they wrote. They might have written things like drought, increasing temperatures and fossil fuel burning.

You could ask the class if they think they have seen the effects of climate change in the UK? We have seen higher temperatures over the last few years and as a result there has been severe flooding in some parts of the country. Explain that scientists think climate change will mean extreme weather events are more likely to happen across the world.

In some countries climate change means rainfall is becoming less reliable which is bad news for people like Orine who rely on rain to grow their food. Explain that WaterAid are working with

communities like Moompo to make sure the water technologies they install will work despite extreme weather events.

Let the class know that they can also do things to lessen the effect of climate change. Climate change is caused by carbon emissions. One way to reduce carbon emissions is to save water. Explain that producing the clean water we have access to in the UK uses a lot of energy and generating energy produces carbon dioxide emissions. Ask the class to think of one or two ways that they can reduce how much water they use. They might suggest turning the tap off when brushing their teeth or only using the washing machine when it is full. Now ask the

group to create a sign or poster which they can display in their house to remind them to save water.

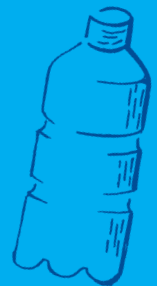
The class can display their posters at school or at home and can encourage their family to save water.

Additional fundraising activity

Why not get your class involved with fundraising for WaterAid this Harvest time? Create life-giving bottles by printing out a colourful bottle gauge (available from our website). You could create one big life-giving bottle for the class, or one for each child. Pupils could put 5p in their life-giving bottle every time they manage to save water thanks to their signs.

Create your life-giving bottles:

- 1. Ask your class to each bring in an empty, clean, dry plastic bottle, or just have one large bottle for the whole class**
- 2. Mark a line around the neck of the bottle**
- 3. Poke a hole on the line with a sharp object**
- 4. Use the hole to start cutting around the neck of the bottle with scissors**
- 5. Neaten any sharp edges**
- 6. Fold over your bottle gauge and start collecting change!**

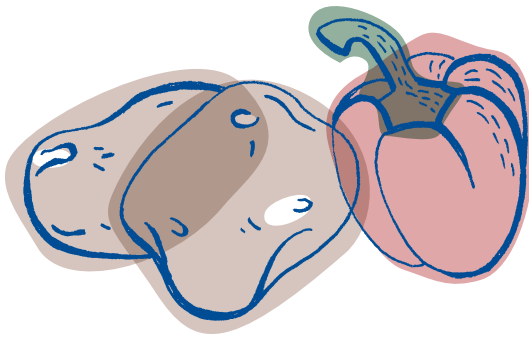


Activity two: Vegetables

30 mins

You will need:

- A selection of vegetables
- World map
- Paper plates
- Pens
- Zambia country briefing



Explain that at this time of year we celebrate a festival called harvest. Traditionally harvest was a time to mark a successful gathering of crops.

Ask the class if they can name the different vegetables you have brought along. Can they describe what type of plant each vegetable grows on?

Now ask if anyone in the class can tell you why vegetables are important? They might suggest it is because they are healthy and a good source of nutrients. Could your group imagine a life without vegetables?

Refer back to the Zambia country briefing. Explain that in some parts of the world there is not enough water or rain for farmers to grow vegetables and people have no choice but to go without them.

Remind the class that Zambia is one country where this has happened. Last year Zambia experienced the worst drought in 35 years. This meant that there were lots of people who struggled to grow enough food to eat.

Remind the class of Orine's story. During the drought Orine, and her family could only eat once a day because they were unable to grow any vegetables. This is because the whole of Moompo village have to collect their water from a small well which often dries up. Orine's family didn't have enough water to bathe, to clean and grow food. Ask your class how they would feel

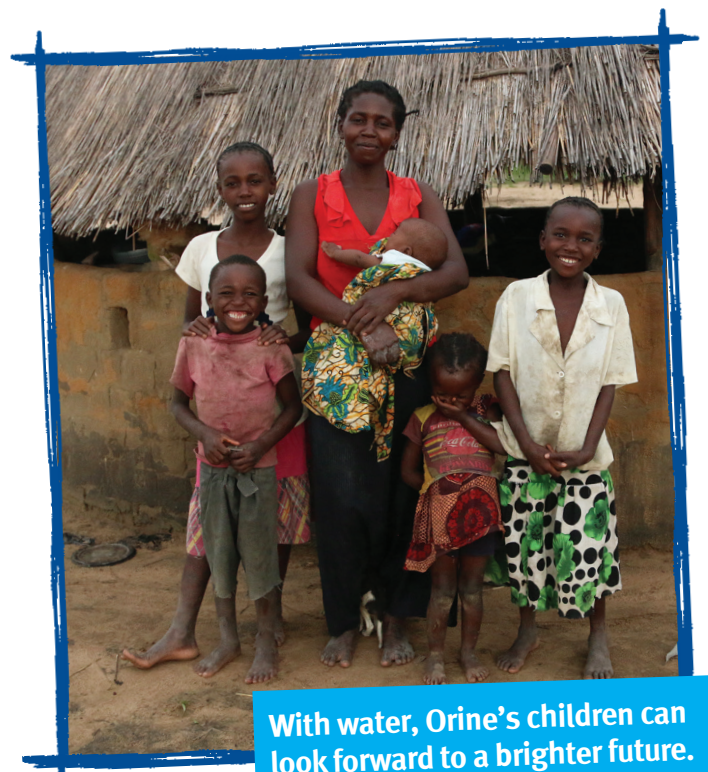
if they were only able to eat one meal a day? Do they think they would be hungry and tired?

Read through page 2 of the Zambia country briefing, or ask for volunteers to do so. Ask the class what they think about WaterAid's plan to install a borehole in Moomp? How will this change the lives of Orine and her family?

Give each child a paper plate. Ask them to draw food they are grateful for on the top of the plate.

Once they have completed their plates, ask them to use the blank space on the reverse to write a short illustrated letter to Orine and her family.

You could end the session by asking for volunteers to share their letters with the class.



With water, Orine's children can look forward to a brighter future.