



CLEAN WATER

ELEMENTARY LEVEL

Appreciating Water Activity

Orientation Activity

- **Purpose:** The purpose of this activity is for students to develop an appreciation for water by monitoring their daily water use and learning about water and sanitation issues around the world.
- **Instructional method(s):** class discussion, independent activity
- **Differentiated instruction:**
 - Simplified: Students will partner up with a buddy for this activity.
 - Advanced: Students will monitor their water use in school and outside of school by carrying their jar with them.
- **Curriculum connections:** Grades 2 – 8, Language Arts, Mathematics, Science and Technology and Social Studies.
- **Estimated time:** this is a three-day activity that can be done intermittently throughout your regular school program.
- **Steps:**
 1. Prior to this activity, decide on a small collectable item that can be gathered by the class (e.g.: pennies). Encourage students to collect as many of this item as they can and bring their collections back to the classroom.

Teacher Note: Pennies are a great collectable item for this activity because they can be donated to your Free The Children Adopt A Village project when the activity is complete.

2. Compile student collections in one communal basket in the room.
3. When the collection is substantial, ask each student to bring one empty and clear jar to class. Have each student label their jar, "The Water I Use", and place their jar on the edge of their desk.
4. Explain to students that the pennies represent water while the jars represent the amount of water they use.
5. Beginning on a specific day, ask students to go about their regular routines for the school day (e.g.: drinking from the water fountain, flushing the toilet, washing their hands etc.). Every time the students use water, ask them to take a penny from the basket and place it in their jar.
6. At the end of the day Distribute B.L.M.1 to each student in the class.
7. First ask students to fill out their name, date and count the amount of pennies in their jar.
8. Next, reflect on the day by asking the following suggested questions:
 - When and how did you use water today?
 - Does the amount of pennies in your jar surprise you? Why?
 - When you look around the room and see the pennies in everyone's jars, how does this make you feel?
 - At any point during the day, did you use water in a wasteful manner?

- What are some ways you can cut back on your water use to stop this waste from happening?
9. Ask each student to come to the front of the room and dump their pennies back in the class basket. Explain to the class that tomorrow they will do the same activity; however, this time they will try to cut back on the water they waste during the day.
 10. Following this discussion, ask students to fill out the remainder of the chart on B.L.M.1 on their own.
 11. Do this activity for two more days until B.L.M.1 is complete. At this time, ask students the following suggested questions about the activity:
 - What is thirst?
 - What are some reasons why you become thirsty?
 - Have you ever been in a situation when you could not quench your thirst?
 - Would you ever drink dirty water? Why not?
 - Why is it important to wash your hands?
 12. Tell students the following facts about water and sanitation:
 - In developing countries, about 80% of illnesses are linked to poor water and sanitation conditions.
 - Roughly 1 in every 8 people around the world does not have access to safe drinking water.
 - Worldwide, 2.5 billion people are without access to adequate sanitation facilities.
 - Around the world, 1 out of 4 deaths in children under the age of five is due to a water-related disease.
 13. After hearing these facts ask students the following suggested questions:
 - How did these statistics make you feel?
 - Why was this thirst activity important? What did it teach you about water?
 14. Before concluding this activity ensure students are aware there are people around the world who do not have access to clean water. Encourage them to develop an appreciation for water and an understanding of how fortunate they are to have access to clean water.

Participate in Free The Children's Five Days for Freedom campaign as an engaging outlet for youth action. Check out www.weday.com/takeaction to learn more.

Blackline Master 1

Name:

The Water I Use

Date:
The number of pennies in my jar:
The ways I used water today:
I will cut back on my water use by taking the following actions:

Date:
The number of pennies in my jar:
The ways I used water today:
I will cut back on my water use by taking the following actions:

Date:
The number of pennies in my jar:
The ways I used water today:
I will cut back on my water use by taking the following actions:



By participating in this activity, I learned ...
