

ACTIVITY THREE: THE IMPORTANCE OF WATER, AT HOME, AT SCHOOL AND IN MY COMMUNITY

This **NATURAL SCIENCES** activity focuses on the importance of water in our lives and the problems of pollution. Learners summarise their 'saving water' and 'how to stop water pollution' group discussions with colourful posters.

Without water, no life could survive on our planet. It is precious and important and too many of us are wasting it! If we all learn to value and conserve our freshwater, there will be enough for everyone, now and in the future. Not only will there be enough for all people on the Earth, but there will be enough for all the animals and plants as well.

ACTIVITY:

- As a class, and using the questions below, the children can discuss the importance of water. Encourage them to think about who or what else needs water (not only people but animals and plants as well). Encourage the children to share their ideas on what causes water pollution and what are ways of reducing pollution.

The following questions can be used to prompt the class discussions.

- Why is water important to us?
- How would life be different with very little water?
- Is water only important to humans?
- How can we use water more wisely and carefully?
- How is water being polluted?
- How does polluted water affect us, our family and our friends?
- What can people do to reduce pollution in water?
- What can I do to reduce water pollution?
- What can people do to save or recycle water?
- What can I do to save or recycle water?

Divide your class in small groups of four or five learners. Half the groups can then draw up a list on "How to save water", the other half on "How to stop water pollution". Once the lists have been drawn up, the groups can each design a colourful, bright and eye-catching poster (with some of their ideas on it) and then display them in the classroom or around the school. An example of a list is given below:

"How to save water"

1. Switch taps off properly after you have used them.
2. Wash dishes in a shallow sink of water rather than washing them under a running tap.
3. Take shorter showers (5 minutes or less) or shallow baths. Showers generally save up to one third of water used.
4. Turn off the tap when brushing your teeth and washing your hair.
5. Use stale drinking water to water plants rather than throwing it away.
6. Reduce the amount of water used with each toilet flush by putting a cool drink bottle filled with stones into the toilet tank.
7. Use rain barrels to collect water for gardening.
8. In summer, water your garden early in the day (before 9:00am) or late (after 4pm) to minimise water loss through evaporation.

Did you know? You can save up to 4 400 litres of water a year by not letting the water run while you brush your teeth!! Whew, that's a lot of water – enough to fill up a swimming pool!!

Criteria to assess learners during this natural sciences lesson

Criteria	Exceeded requirements of the Learning Outcome	Satisfied requirements of the Learning Outcome	Partially satisfied requirements of the Learning Outcome	Not satisfied requirements of the Learning Outcome
The learner was able to identify that water pollution was a problem (an environmental issue)				
The learner was able to contribute towards the class discussions on what causes water pollution				
The learner was able to contribute ideas on how to prevent water pollution				
The learner was able to contribute ideas on how they could reduce water pollution				
The learner was able to contribute ideas on how they could save water				