

Why Do We Care About Water?

Curriculum links k-3

Number of Participants: 20 – 30

Duration: 10 – 20 minute sessions

Materials Required: • one eye dropper or small cups
• small pool of water or other body of water

Warm Up Activity:

Prompt a discussion about water and its many different uses in the world for people, animals, food, plants, etc.

Ask students if it is difficult for them to access water and most likely they will say, “No”.

Now have them think about situations where it might be hard to get water – prompt them to speak about people in other countries who do not have kitchen sinks or hoses – how do these people get water?

Have your class sit in a circle and discuss ways in which each of them can make a difference in conserving water.

Explain to them that ‘conserve’ means to ‘save’ or ‘protect’.

On a sheet of chart paper, record the students’ responses and encourage them to take meaningful action on their suggestions.

Place the list of suggestions in a central area of the classroom and return to it often.

Activity:

1. On a separate day, review the list and ask if anyone can come up with more suggestions.
2. Now lead the class in an activity that will show them that every drop of water saved counts in making a difference in water conservation and awareness.
3. If you have a small body of water close by, do this activity outside, if not, make a body of water perhaps out of a small pool or bowl.
4. Create a special atmosphere for this water ‘ceremony’ – play water sounds on the CD player, have a ‘rainmaker’ instrument, etc.
5. Have students reflect on all the different uses of water in their lives. Then ask students to come to the ‘pond’ one at a time and add a drop to the body of water with the eye dropper or small cup.
6. As they do this, have the students reflect on ways they can help to make a difference in the environment by saving water in their household. Ask them to share with the remainder of the class how they plan to do their part.
7. Ask students to share the message of “why we care about water” and its importance to their family and friends.

If you are able to do this activity at a pond or other body of water, explain to students how all their drops of water have come together to become part of a larger body of water. Then explain how this pond plays a part in our lives as it is part of our earth's water cycle.

If you are unable to do this activity at a pond, remind students that they are to imagine the pool of water as a pond or other body of water.

This activity demonstrates to students how we are all connected no matter where we live on our planet Earth. Water is something we all need and use.

Lesson Extension

In the third session have students reflect upon the water dropper activity. Then have them paint a picture representing what water means to them. You can prompt them to think about how water is most important to them and their families. If this activity coincides with World Water Day (March 22), you can display their pictures in the school display case. In a grade one, two or three class have students present their art to the class, explaining what they chose to depict in their art and why.