

Activity 1

Every picture tells a story

Ages
7-11.

Time required
45 minutes – 1 hour.

Subjects
Citizenship/ESDGC/English/Humanities.

Aims
To understand the importance of water in people's lives, and to explore the consequences of water shortages.
To develop visual literacy skills.

You will need
Copies or projections of two images ('padlocked tap' and 'girl at pump'), available at: tinyurl.com/2byvfvx

A global map to show the location of Kenya and Liberia.

WHAT TO DO

Activity 1

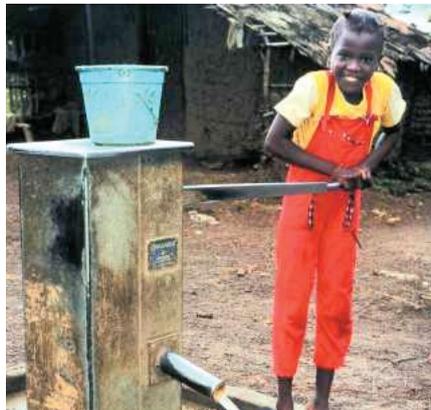
Show pupils the photograph of the padlocked tap and ask them to discuss what they can see. Why do they think the tap is padlocked? Explain it is meant to conserve water: people in one Kenyan village have agreed to limit how much

water they take from their shared tap every day. Ask pupils why this may be necessary.

Activity 2

Ask pupils to imagine they go home to find their water supply has been shut down. Divide pupils into groups to consider how their lives would be affected, and prepare a poster or a presentation on their ideas.

Allow groups to present their work. Discuss different ideas with the whole class. Can they begin to understand the huge difficulties associated with water shortages? Can they see such consequences would apply to all people in that situation throughout the world?



Activity 3

Show pupils the photograph of the girl at a pump and ask them to discuss what they can see. Explain the pump is the main water supply for the girl, who is part of a camp for displaced people in Liberia. Without it, she would face the same kinds of consequences the pupils have discussed.

Ask pupils to imagine the pump has just been installed. Encourage them to suggest positive words they associate with the photograph and explain why they chose them.

Plenary

Ask pupils to suggest captions or titles for the two photographs. Explore their decisions. Did they base them on what they saw when they first looked at them, or has learning about them changed their opinions? Do they think photographs can tell a story?

Left: Perrytown camp for displaced people, outside Monrovia in Liberia. The installation of water pumps brought considerable relief to the people here. Photo: Jenny Matthews/Oxfam

Below: The Kenyan village of Kipsaraman. The padlock demonstrates how precious the water supply is in the area. Photo: Crispin Hughes/Oxfam



Visual Literacy

Photographs are hugely influential, but pictures do not always tell the whole story. Media representations of countries in developing countries often contribute to negative stereotypes. Photographs should always be put in context, their limitations discussed, and as much accurate information as possible given about the people and places in them. This helps young people learn to question photographs and develop visual literacy.

More information on teaching visual literacy in primary school is available at tinyurl.com/29c9k1z

You can find a KS3 module on water at: www.oxfam.org.uk/education/resources/water_for_all/water/