

Activity 2

Going short of water

Ages

11-14.

Time required

1 hour.

Subjects

Citizenship/ESDGC/Humanities.

Aims

To identify and explore a range of causes for water shortages.

To develop a critical understanding of global issues through the use of questioning.

You will need

Access to the Oxfam Education website www.oxfam.org.uk/education/teachersupport/the_big_picture to download:

Worksheet displaying causes of water shortages.

PowerPoint template for 'why-why-why' chain.

Projections or copies of seven photographs available at: tinyurl.com/292xe5r

A3 paper and coloured pens for pupils to draw 'why-why-why' chains.

WHAT TO DO

Starter

Demonstrate to pupils how a 'why-why-why' chain works.

Introduce a statement such as: **all pupils have to learn maths at school.**

Ask why this is true. When a pupil has given a reason, ask the class why their answer is true, and choose another pupil to respond.

Alternatively, sit some of the pupils in a line and pass a ball along the line, asking successive 'why' questions to each pupil holding the ball.

This process can be repeated for as long as is desirable, and more statements can be introduced to start new chains.

Activity 1

Now pupils have practised a 'why-why-why' chain, use the PowerPoint template to demonstrate how to draw one.

Put pupils into small groups and give them time to construct their own why-why-why chains, starting with the statement: **some people in the world do not have enough water.**

Encourage pupils to keep expanding their chains and to present them clearly and colourfully on large paper.

Discuss the pupils' chains as a class. If there is time, construct a whole-class chain at the front.

Activity 2

Show pupils the seven photographs. Tell the class that each photo represents a possible cause of water shortages. Ask pupils to suggest the causes related to each photo.

Give pupils time to match the causes to the photographs, using the worksheet provided. Are these causes similar to the ones they thought of? Are there any surprises? What do they think of their own ideas now?

Plenary

In their groups, pupils can discuss what they think is the most important cause of water shortages. Get them to write their ideas on the board or on a big piece of paper at the front of the class.

If there is time, let pupils vote for the most important cause and discuss the results.

Why-why-why chain

This activity helps pupils to think beyond surface impressions to the underlying causes behind complex issues. You can find more information on this and other educational activities in *Getting started with Global Citizenship: A Guide for New Teachers*, downloadable from www.oxfam.org.uk/education/teachersupport/cpd



Photos: Some of the pictures illustrating reasons for water shortages that can be downloaded from our website: tinyurl.com/292xe5r

From top left clockwise: Annie Bungeroth/Oxfam; Jenny Matthews/Oxfam; Alex Smailes/Ecopix; Crispin Hughes/Oxfam.