

Different perspectives on water (p. 24-25)

Materials included in this document:

- Teacher's Notes: Setting up the activity
- Role Cards
- Student Handout (includes "Tweet" response template)

Teacher's Notes: Setting up the activity

Preparation:

- Photocopy two of each Role Card page, and cut out each card.
- Photocopy enough Student Handouts for each class member.
- Collect a range of photos of water (for example: could cut out or photocopy images from *Get Connected: Water in the world*).
- Collect a large piece of paper, and a range of pens.

Activity:

Organise students into a circle. Give each student a Student Handout.

- (a) Have a large piece of paper and pens in the centre. Ask students to sit in silence, and pass around water photos for them to look at. After students have had some time to look at a few photos, ask them to come to the centre and write on the paper their response to the statement "Water is important to me because..." Display the paper so the class can see each other's responses.
- (b) Randomly distribute a role card to each student. Ask students to complete the "Response" section of the Student Handout, writing a "Tweet" about water from the perspective identified in their role card. Ask students to cut/tear off the "Response" section of their handout. They should screw their "Tweet" into a snowball. On the word "go", students should toss their snowballs into the centre of the circle, and pick up someone else's. Students should share these new perspectives on water with the class by reading out the "Tweet" they picked up.
- (c) Ask students to discuss the different views they have heard. Encourage students to share a new personal perspective with the class by saying "I used to think.....but now I think....."

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Role cards for students

<p>You are a young girl in a village in Niger. A few years ago there was no well in your village. You had to walk several kilometres twice a day to collect water from a river. You carried buckets of water home and then walked to school. All this just to get water to drink.</p>	<p>You are a mother in Indonesia. You need fresh water to cook with. You collect buckets of water from a well in the village. You make several trips to the well every day. You have heard of other mothers in the world who have a tap in their home! You wonder how much easier that would be and how much healthier your family would be.</p>
<p>You are yourself – living in Australia. You have water whenever you want it. You groan when your parents remind you to wash your hands after going to the toilet and before eating. You have been learning at school about how kids elsewhere in the world get sick and sometimes die when they drink polluted water. You know that disease spreads quickly when people can't wash their hands with soap and water or use water to flush a toilet.</p>	<p>You are a farmer in Indonesia. You need water to help crops grow and for your farm animals to drink. When water is available, your crops and animals grow well and you can feed your family. Sometimes you can grow more than you need – then you can take extra vegetables to the market. Extra money can be used to buy clothes, school supplies and visit the doctor if needed.</p>
<p>You are a farmer in Australia. You rely on water being pumped from a big dam to your farm. You have to pay the government to do this but it is worth it if your crops grow better and yield more to sell to the big supermarket that buys your vegetables. When water is scarce or costs too much to buy, you make less money. This makes it hard for your whole family.</p>	<p>You work for UNESCO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, in the “Water for Peace” department. Your job is to help different countries to work together to share water. Sometimes they fight over who owns the water in a river or lake. By helping countries to share, you aid them in cooperating over other things as well – such as helping them to partner together to get better schools, hospitals and roads for their people. You believe that with fresh water, millions of people all over the world can live better, healthier lives. You know that cooperation over water can help to achieve peace in many parts of the world.</p>
<p>You represent the natural ecosystems of the world. Your job is to remind everyone that keeping water for the world's natural environments is crucial. All plant and animal species, found in a diverse array of ecosystems, also need water to live and thrive. A healthy planet is good for all people on Earth.</p>	<p>You are a water trader. This means that you buy and sell water. You like to make a profit. You believe that water is a commodity – it is a tradable good like anything else. If people, businesses and governments want it, they should pay for it.</p>
<p>You and your friends want water for leisure activities. You like to have fresh water for swimming, water-skiing, fishing and camping nearby. It is important for you and your family to enjoy activities close to the water.</p>	<p>You operate a factory in Australia. You need water to do this. Your factory needs great amounts of electricity, which is generated using power from water (hydroelectricity). You provide many jobs for local people. Without water, you can't make products, make a profit or employ people.</p>

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Student Handout

This is a whole class activity. Start off by sitting in a circle.

- (a) In silence, pass around the images of water given to you by your teacher. On the large sheet of paper in the centre of the circle add your opinion to the statement:

Water is important to me because...

- (b) Select a water perspectives role card. Read the card and think about the perspective on water it raises.

Using the template below, write a "Tweet" which summarises the perspective on the card. Remove the Response section of the page. You will be asked to pass your response to someone else in the class.

When you have received someone else's "Tweet", share that perspective on water with the class.

- (c) After you have listened to all the different points of view, consider whether this changes your personal perspective on water in any way. Share your thoughts with the rest of your class. You may want to phrase your response like this: "I used to think...but now I think..."



Response

Water is important to me because...

Write a "Tweet" (no more than 140 characters) describing the importance of water from the perspective on your role card.
