



How big is the water problem in many African, Asian, and Latin American countries? Do people have enough water to drink? Is the water they consume safe? Can people die from drinking contaminated water? How fortunate are Canadians when it comes to having lots of safe water? Test your knowledge of water around the world by answering these questions. (Teachers: Answers are on a separate page at the bottom of this document.)

WATER FACTS and FALLACIES

1. 100 million people around the world are forced to try to survive drinking contaminated water. *TRUE or FALSE?*
2. 2.5 billion people lack access to improved sanitation, such as toilets. *TRUE or FALSE?*
3. Thirty per cent of the world's fresh water is readily accessible for direct human use. *TRUE or FALSE?*
4. The amount of fresh water that humans are taking annually from the world's lakes, rivers and aquifers has doubled in the past 200 years. *TRUE or FALSE?*
5. You can survive about a month without food, but only five to seven days without water. *TRUE or FALSE?*
6. BioSand Water Filters, installed by Samaritan's Purse in developing countries around the world, can operate on electricity, gasoline, or oil. *TRUE or FALSE?*
7. African and Asian women walk, on average, about two kilometers each trip in order to fetch water. *TRUE or FALSE?*
8. Every \$1 invested in water and sanitation creates, on average, another \$8 in costs saved and productivity gained. *TRUE or FALSE?*
9. Almost two in three people lacking access to clean water live on less than \$20 a day. *TRUE or FALSE?*
10. The average African family uses about 50 liters of water per day. The average Canadian uses about 330 – the equivalent of about three baths – at home each day. *TRUE or FALSE?*
11. One drop of oil can make up to 25 liters of water unfit for drinking. *TRUE or FALSE?*
12. Every 10 minutes, someone dies from water-related diseases. *TRUE or FALSE?*
13. The Samaritan's Purse Household Water Program has brought safe water to nearly 1 million impoverished people around the world. *TRUE or FALSE?*
14. Thirty per cent of all cases of diarrhea are caused by unsafe drinking water, inadequate sanitation, and poor hygiene. *TRUE or FALSE?*
15. At any given time, 20 per cent of the world's hospital beds are occupied by patients with water-related diseases. *TRUE or FALSE?*
16. 500,000 children die each year from diarrhea. *TRUE or FALSE?*
17. Nothing has greater impact upon national development and public health than proper hygiene practices, providing safe drinking water, and properly disposing of human waste. *TRUE or FALSE?*



18. Safe water makes all the difference when it comes to improving the health of people.
TRUE or FALSE?
19. Almost half of all people in developing countries are suffering at any given time from a health problem caused by water and sanitation problems. *TRUE or FALSE?*
20. On average, every dollar invested in water and sanitation provides an equal economic return.
TRUE or FALSE?

*Sources: Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council
United Nations reports, 2006 and 2008
World Health Organization, 2008
Government and United Nations war dead statistics
Water Partners International
Government of Canada
United Nations Population Fund*



ANSWERS

1. **FALSE.** Believe it or not, 884 million people – approximately 13 per cent of the Earth's population – are forced to try to survive drinking contaminated water.
2. **TRUE.** The lack of proper sanitation pollutes much of the water consumed by the world's poorest people.
3. **FALSE.** Less than one per cent of the world's fresh water (or about 0.7 per cent of all water on earth) is readily accessible for direct human use.
4. **FALSE.** The amount of fresh water that humans take annually from the world's lakes, rivers and aquifers has doubled in the past 50 years and is expected to double again in 30 years.
5. **TRUE.** You can become dehydrated in a remarkably short time. That's why so many people carry water bottles.
6. **FALSE.** BioSand Water Filters don't need any power source to operate. That's one of the reasons they are so effective in developing countries, where fuel often costs more than families can afford.
7. **FALSE.** African and Asian women walk, on average, about six kilometers each trip in order to fetch water. Some spend an entire day just getting water for their family.
8. **TRUE.** Safe water can improve the standard of living for an entire community because less time is lost to sickness and less money is spent on medicine to stop diarrhea.
9. **FALSE.** Almost two in three people lacking access to clean water live on less than \$2 a day. So they rarely have enough money to buy safe water, even if it was readily available.
10. **TRUE.** Here's how residential indoor water use in Canada breaks down: toilet – 30 per cent; bathing and showering – 35 per cent; laundry – 20 per cent; kitchen and drinking – 10 per cent; cleaning – 5 per cent.
11. **TRUE.** We normally hear about oil spills harming ocean wildlife, but having oil in drinking water can cause long-term health problems in people.
12. **FALSE.** Every 20 seconds, someone – usually a child – dies from a water-related disease.
13. **TRUE.** Samaritan's Purse Canada and its partners have built and installed about 100,000 BioSand Water Filters. Each filter provides all the daily water needs for up to 10 people.
14. **FALSE.** 88 per cent of all cases of diarrhea are caused by unsafe drinking water, inadequate sanitation, and poor hygiene.
15. **FALSE.** At any given time, *half* of the world's hospital beds are occupied by patients with water-related diseases.
16. **FALSE.** 1.4 million children die each year from diarrhea – *more than 3,800 each day.*
17. **TRUE.** When people have safe water, proper hygiene, and improved sanitation, their income and education levels increase and governments can spend less money on hospitals and doctors.
18. **FALSE.** Human health improvements are influenced not only by using safe water, but by hygiene habits and using sanitation facilities.
19. **TRUE.** That's why the value of having safe drinking, cooking and cleaning water cannot be over-estimated.
20. **FALSE.** On average, every dollar invested in water and sanitation provides an economic return of eight dollars.