



Every 20 seconds, a person in the developing world – usually a child – dies from diseases caused by polluted drinking water. But this heart-breaking issue extends even to rich countries like Canada, where water contaminated by animal waste has been a problem.

Through basic information and challenging activities, these junior high (grade 7-9) science resources are intended to teach students principles around water stewardship and water treatment, while adhering to government education guidelines. Learn about Samaritan's Purse's work helping families get safe water and involve your students in thinking about world water issues and how to solve them.

WATER FACTS

Facts about water, the world-wide water crisis, drinking water, and water-related disease.

Did you know...

- 884 million people – approximately 13 per cent of the world's population – are forced to try to survive drinking contaminated water.
- 2.5 billion people lack access to improved sanitation.
- 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.
- The amount of fresh water that humans are taking 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.
- You can survive about a month without food, but only five to seven days without water.
- Millions of women and children spend several hours a day collecting water from distant, often polluted sources.
- African and Asian women walk, on average, about six kilometers each trip in order to fetch water.
- Every \$1 invested in water and sanitation creates on average another \$8 in costs averted and productivity gained.
- Thanks to the generosity of Canadians, Samaritan's Purse Canada has been able to install about 100,000 BioSand Water Filters around the world, bringing safe water to nearly 1 million people.
- Almost two in three people lacking access to clean water live on less than \$2 a day.
- 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.
- 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.
- A five-minute shower with a low-flow shower head uses about 60 liters of water.
- One drop of oil can make up to 25 liters of water unfit for drinking.



Facts about water-related diseases

- Every 20 seconds, someone – usually a child – dies from a water-related disease.
- For children younger than five, water-related diseases are among the leading causes of death.
- 88 per cent of all cases of diarrhea are caused by unsafe drinking water, inadequate sanitation, and poor hygiene.
- BioSand Water Filters, installed around the world by Samaritan's Purse, remove most bacteria, viruses, protozoa, and other organisms that cause diarrhea, cholera, and typhoid fever.
- At any given time, half of the world's hospital beds are occupied by patients with water-related diseases.
- 1.4 million children die annually from diarrhea – more than 3,800 each day.
- Nothing has greater overall impact upon national development and public health than providing safe drinking water and properly disposing of human waste.
- Human health improvements are influenced not only by using safe water, but also by hygiene habits and using sanitation facilities.
- Almost half of all people in developing countries are suffering at any given time from a health problem caused by water and sanitation problems.
- 98 per cent of water-related deaths occur in the developing world.

*Sources: Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council
United Nations reports, 2006 and 2008
World Health Organization. 2008
Water Partners International
Government of Canada
Samaritan's Purse Canada (www.turnonthetap.ca)
United Nations Population Fund*