



Lesson 9: The Importance of Sanitation

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS:

Grade 6-8 Social Studies and Science

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS:

- Word Wall
- Group Inquiry
- Issue Tree

ESTIMATED TIME: 75 minutes

KEY QUESTIONS/IDEAS:

- What is sanitation? Improved sanitation?
- What is Open Defecation? Why is this a problem in developing countries?
- How do hygiene and sanitation impact each other?

Note to Teacher:

Students may be uncomfortable talking about sanitation – after all, it is all about poop. Try to get them more comfortable talking about it in the beginning by brainstorming as a class the words for poop – and encouraging them to use 'feces' if that is easier.

MATERIALS

Chart paper and markers,

Copies of Activity W18 –
Sanitation Picture,

Copies of Activity W19 – Why
do people want sanitation

Part A: It's all about the Poop (30 minutes)

REVIEW DEFINITIONS (USE A WORD WALL FOR THESE TERMS)

Feces: poop, human waste, dung, crap, excrement (What other (polite) words do you use?)

Sanitation: the management and safe disposal of human urine and feces.

Environmental Sanitation: broadens the definition of sanitation to include animal excreta (feces and urine) management, domestic wastewater management, solid waste management, vector control and storm-water drainage.

Water Source Protection: the protection of surface and ground water to avoid water pollution and contamination.

Open Defecation: When a person poos outside (not in a latrine or toilet) and leaves it there.

DIVIDE CLASS INTO GROUPS.

Each group is given a copy of **Activity W18– Sanitation Picture**. As a group, ask students to examine the picture and pick out all of the sanitation issues.

Class discussion – after all groups have discussed the picture in length lead a discussion about all of the parts of the picture that pose problems.

1. What are the sanitation issues? (open defecation near river, animals defecating near river, child swimming in dirty water, woman doing laundry in water (will add detergents to water source), garbage trickling into river, etc.)
2. Is just the human waste an issue or are the animals also contaminating the water? (Animals are a problem as well. They spread germs through their feces into the river.)
3. What kinds of contamination is likely in the river water? What about the well water? (Bacteria, viruses, protozoa, worms, plastics, metals, chemicals, detergents. The well water is likely also contaminated as it is unprotected (does not have a cover, is not raised))
4. What do you think the village near this river could do to protect their water source? (Educate villagers about how to protect water source, keep animals fenced in away from water, clean up dog feces, avoid doing laundry in the river, place garbage in a disposal area far from the river, etc.)
5. How does the Government of Canada protect our water sources? Why is this important?

Part B: Open Defecation (20 minutes)

Open Defecation is a huge problem around the world. In Canada everyone has a toilet that they can use whenever they want, but in many developing countries families and schools do not have toilets.

Why is Open Defecation a problem?

Create an Issue Tree about Open Defecation so that students can see all of the issues surrounding Open Defecation.

ISSUE TREE – DRAW A BIG FRUIT TREE ON THE BOARD OR A PIECE OF CHART PAPER.

1. Start by writing Open Defecation on the trunk of the tree.
2. On the roots of the tree have students brainstorm roots (reasons) for this problem (no toilet available, history – never used a toilet, poverty, lack of education, etc.).
3. On the branches brainstorm what are the direct results of Open Defecation on the community (diarrhea, illness, worms, malnutrition, water source contaminated, etc.).
4. On the fruit of the tree write the larger picture issues and problems associated with diarrhea/illness (health care costs, loss of work, sometimes death (for elderly and infants), loss of education (too sick to go to school), more poverty, etc.)

Part C: Sanitation Marketing (25 minutes)

Give students **Activity W19 – Why do people want sanitation**

Allow students to work in pairs to complete the activity.

If time, have students share their slogans with the class.

MINISTRY MOMENT:

- Hygiene and Sanitation is old news. It has been taught for generations and God even writes about it in the Old Testament. God values good hygiene and sanitation because he wants people to live healthy lives.
- Look at the verses in the bible that address hygiene and sanitation.
- Leviticus 11:32-40, 13:29-59, 15:1-15

The need for isolation and washing is often emphasised. Even today it may be difficult to distinguish between different types of infection and it may be better not to take chances. The transmission of diseases such as AIDS and hepatitis through blood and other body fluids clearly shows the need for care.

God created the systems that exist on earth so that we (his people who He loves) can live well upon the earth. Despite the fact that sin has entered into our world and contaminated the earth, God still has a good system for keeping us healthy. Some of the laws from Leviticus are old and irrelevant for today's world. But they all point to the same principles. Good handwashing practices and proper sanitary disposal lead to healthier living.

Take 5 of the verses that God gave to the Israelites in Leviticus and compare them to the hygiene and sanitation lessons that Samaritan's Purse staff are teaching the people in communities around the world. How are the top-ics similar? How are they different? Why?

ACTIVITY W18—SANITATION PICTURE



HOW WATER IS CONTAMINATED

Sources: Image by CAWST is [licensed under CC BY-SA 4.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/) / Adaptation "How is Water Contaminated"

ACTIVITY W19 – WHY DO PEOPLE REALLY WANT SANITATION?

Sanitation is a huge need in the developing world. 2.4 billion people (that's 15% of the world population) do not have access to sanitation facilities. NGOs and Government agencies have been trying to tackle this problem for many years.

Historically – Organizations and government bodies have given subsidies for latrines or just given people latrines. But this was found not to be effective – many times latrines were left unused or unmaintained.

Why? Research from Benin and Philippines tells us:

Why do people want sanitation?

Asked to prioritize reasons for satisfaction with their new latrines, rural householders in the Philippines and Benin cited the following:

Rank	Philippines	Benin
1	Lack of smell and flies	Avoid discomforts of the bush
2	Cleaner surroundings	Gain prestige from visitors
3	Privacy	Avoid dangers at night
4	Less embarrassment when friends visit	Avoid snakes
5	Less gastrointestinal disease.	Reduce flies in compound

Note that health considerations are at the bottom of the Philippines list, and even further below – 13th place – on the list from rural Benin. Nevertheless, most government sanitation programs have stressed the health dimension. Private sector marketers would be more likely to discover, through their normal market research, that other factors were more important selling points.

Source: WSP http://www.wsp.org/sites/wsp.org/files/publications/af_marketing.pdf

Studies have shown again and again that people don't always value a latrine and many times the latrine doesn't meet their wants and needs. We (the west) may think that people want a latrine because it will make them healthier (which it will), but actually their primary interest is perhaps status or less flies or danger. Sanitation Marketing is a newer idea fueled by the private sector. Research is done to see what people want in a latrine and what motivates them to buy one. Then private companies advertise latrines accordingly.

ACTIVITY:

In pairs or groups come up with some slogans or advertisement ideas that could be used to 'sell' people in The Philip-pines or Benin on buying a latrine. Be sure to take into account WHY they want a latrine!