



Environmental Health

Activity 2: Water Waste

Overview

In this activity students will focus on the problem of water waste. They will observe and discuss how water waste is produced and how it can be reduced. *Suggested length: 60 minutes*

Materials

- Plastic containers such as large cups and buckets;
- Tools to transfer water: sponges, spoons, pipes, small paper or plastic cups.
- Notebooks and pencils
- Posters and markers

Instructions

1. Ask the students to separate into groups of three or four and to think of this context: wasting water is often inevitable but how can you reduce water waste?
2. Ask the students to perform the following activities:
 - Fill one of the large containers with water; transfer the water from one container to another using any of the tools. Notice how the amount of water in the containers will reduce after each transfer.

This will make explicit what wasting water is and will make the concept less abstract.

- Use different tools such as sponges, plastic cups, pipes and their hands to create a flow from one container to another. Notice which tools create the bigger waste.
 - Make a list of the tools and record the time needed to transfer all the water from one container to another, and the amount of water wasted.
 - Notice which is the most efficient tool and which one takes the longest time.
3. Afterwards, students brainstorm for 15 minutes about:
 - a. how to conserve more water for every tool they used in the previous activity;
 - b. what are daily situations in which we waste water?
 - c. can water waste be prevented?

Discussion

Students come back together and form groups of up to eight. Moderated by a mentor or teacher, students discuss the following questions:

- Do you waste water often?
- What are the consequences of wasting water?



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- Would you be willing to change your behavior in order to conserve water?
- What would life be like if you couldn't use water whenever and however you wanted?

Assessment

Ask the students to create an informative story on the topic and to present it to the class in the form of a short skit, an informational pamphlet, a poster, a song or a video.