

# STUDENTS FOR WATER: FROM AWARENESS TO ACTION

## Introduction: What is the Global Water Crisis?

**Suggested time: 5-7 minutes**

**Materials: Slide Show Presentation**

***Slide 2: Global Water Crisis***

*Start the discussion by asking a basic question: Why do we need water?*

*After a few class members have the opportunity to answer, present the following:*

### **FACTS TO SHARE:**

- The average person needs at least 8 cups of water a day to stay healthy
- The UN suggests that in order to meet basic needs of “drinking, cooking, and cleaning” a person needs an average of 20-50 liters of fresh water each day
- An average American uses 500 liters of water a day

Do you think everyone in the world has equal access to water?

Who has heard about the global water crisis? What do you know?

### **FACTS TO SHARE:**

- Some 4,500 people die each day from diseases related to unsafe water.
- Around the world 1 out of every 6 people does not have access to clean water
- In many countries, children cannot attend school because they spend 6 to 8 hours each day walking to a water source. They fill up a 5-gallon jug that weighs 40 pounds and carry it 4 miles back home.
- An American taking a 5 minute shower uses more water than the average person in a developing country slum uses in an entire day

# What Happens Without Access to Clean Water?

## ***Slide 3: What Happens to Our Health When We Don't Have Water?***

**Suggested time: 10-13 minutes**

**Materials Needed: Slide Show Presentation**

We need water for so many things, to drink, to eat, for sanitation – what happens when we don't have it?

What is sanitation?

- Conditions related to public health like sewage disposal and access to water for cleanliness purposes (anything in a restroom)

Consumption of unclean water leads to disease

- Unsafe water and lack of basic sanitation cause 80% of all sickness and disease in the world, and kill more people every year than all violence combined, including war.

## ***Slide 4: What Happens to Our Time?***

**For Adults:**

- Time spent gathering water equals time lost that could be spent generating income
- The lost productivity of people collecting water is greater than the combined number of hours worked in a week by employees at Wal\*Mart, United Parcel Service, McDonald's, IBM, Target, and Kroger

**For Children:**

- Children often can't go to school because they must spend time gathering water
- Because of disease caused by the consumption of unclean water, students often miss school, falling behind, or having to drop out completely

## ***Slide 5: Discussion***

*What would this look like for your students?*

- If you were sick all the time, what would you be missing out on? Going to school, playing sports, after school activities, hanging out with friends

*Present the following facts:*

- An estimated 200 million hours a day are consumed collecting water that could be spent working
- This is equivalent to building 28 Empire State Buildings in one day

- What would happen if the person who takes care of you couldn't work because they had to spend that time fetching water?

*\*\*Optional: do this discussion in small groups to allow all students to participate and share ideas, then gather as a class to discuss main points*

## Interactive Activities

### **Slide 6: Activities**

#### **Activity #1: Water Transportation Relay (20 minutes)**

**Materials: 2-4 large jerry cans filled with water, large space to work with, hallway or outdoors, 20-30 flash cards with facts (provided), 2 large bowls to hold flash cards**

*\*\*Please note that because Jerry cans can be difficult to find (check at a local auto parts store), a 5 gallon gas can or water bucket will suffice*

*\*\*Because this activity uses water, it could take place outdoors or in a gym or large hallway*

**The purpose of this activity is to give your students a glimpse of the process women and children go through every day to fetch water for their communities: 15 minutes**

1. Divide class into 2-4 groups (depending on availability of Jerry cans)
2. On one side of the room, have students line up to prepare to run across the room carrying the full bucket
3. On the other side of the room, have the provided water fact flash cards in a bowl or bucket
4. To start, students will run with the water can to the bowl of cards
  - In order to return to their team at the starting line, students must answer whether or not the fact on card is true – if they are wrong, they must go back to the start of the race, with the water jug, to answer another question
  - The team that has all members successfully complete the course first wins

### **Conclude activity with a short discussion: 5 minutes**

- Even though we just had fun doing this race, can you imagine walking for hours every day to do that? How would you feel if, every day, instead of going to school or spending time with your friends, you had to do that? Encourage students to really think about how lucky they are to have such easy access to water.
- Every day, women and children around the world spend hours a day gathering water for their families. Often, they must walk for hours through rough terrain to get enough water for just one day.

### **Activity #2: Fly Swatter Game (20 minutes)**

**Materials: 2 Fly Swatters, Game Board, screen to show game board**

**The purpose of this activity is to give your students a fun way of thinking interactively about the direct results of the water crisis and how it relates to the quality of life of the millions of people who live through it.**

### **Suggested time: 15 minutes**

1. Split class into 2 large groups
2. Put Game Board on Screen at Front of Class
3. Ask for one volunteer from each group
4. From a provided list, ask a question, then have students answer the question by hitting the corresponding answer on the game board
5. Continue until all questions provided have been answered or as long as time permits

### **Debrief Activity: 5 minutes**

- What was the most shocking fact you learned? What do you think is the most difficult part of living in an area that doesn't have access to water?

*Guide discussion to reach answer relating to the time spent walking to fetch water*

- How would you feel if, every day, instead of going to school or spending time with your friends, you had to spend hours gathering water?

*Encourage students to really think about how lucky they are to have such easy access to water.*



### Activity #3: Running/Writing Race

**Materials: whiteboard/blackboard, writing utensils, provided trivia questions and answer choices**

**The purpose of this activity is to give your students a fun way of thinking interactively about the direct results of the water crisis and how it relates to the quality of life of the millions of people who live through it.**

#### **Suggested time: 15 minutes**

1. Split class into 2 groups
2. Give writing utensil to one volunteer from each group
3. Ask one of the provided questions – giving answer options provided
4. Have students run up to board and write the answer
5. Whoever finishes writing first with the right answer wins
6. After correct answer is determined – very briefly repeat fact to class
7. Continue until all questions have been answered or as long as time permits

#### **Debrief activity: 5 minutes**

- What was the most shocking fact you learned? Why?
- What do you think is the most difficult part of living in an area that doesn't have access to water?

*Guide discussion to reach answer relating to the time spent walking to fetch water*

- How would you feel if, every day, instead of going to school or spending time with your friends, you had to spend hours carrying water? Encourage students to really think about how fortunate they are to have such easy access to water.

# Water Quality Demonstration Activity

## **Slide 7: Water Quality Demonstration**

**Suggested time: 10 - 15 minutes**

**Materials: Multiple water samples – ranging from clean, slightly discolored, discolored, very discolored/gritty**

*Show students different water samples*

*Discuss as a class:*

- Would you drink this?
- Why not?
- What do you think would happen if you did?
- Would you let anyone in your family or your friends drink this?

## **Slide 8: Our Communities**

*Show videos of communities Generosity Water has worked with - each video displays different aspects of living in the midst of the crisis - show as many as time permits. The slide has a hyperlink to click and open the video. If the hyperlink doesn't work, here are the individual links:*

- Santa Village, Liberia:  
<http://www.generositywater.com/video/santaliberia>
- Kampala, Uganda:  
<http://www.generositywater.com/video/uganda>
- Dessables, Haiti:  
<http://www.generositywater.com/video/elisil>

# What is Generosity?

## **Slide 9: What is Generosity?**

**Suggested time: 10 - 15 minutes**

*Discuss the following questions as a class:*

How can we end this crisis?

- By being generous to others and building sustainable water projects

What is generosity? What does it mean to be generous?

Give examples of things we can do to be generous to others

What is sacrifice?

- What does it mean to sacrifice something for someone else?

*Optional Small Group Discussion (5 minutes):*

- When is a time that someone has been generous to you?
- How did it make you feel?
- Talk about a time when you have been generous to someone else. How did they react? How did that make you feel?

*Optional Activity (10 minutes):*

*Have students write a letter to thank someone who has been generous to them*

*Optional Small Group Discussion (5 minutes):*

- Is it our responsibility to help others?
- Do you feel inspired to help others in need?
  - Why or why not?

*This is an opportunity to encourage students to engage in their communities and to help others – whether or not they choose to do so through fundraising for Generosity Water*

## What Can You Do to Help?

### **Slide 10: How Can You Help?**

**Suggested time: 5 minutes**

Opportunities to Support Generosity Water's Efforts to End the Water Crisis:

- Students can start a fundraiser or club on your campus  
*Show video of Markham Middle School fundraiser:*  
<http://www.generositywater.com/video/students-for-water>
- Fundraising Ideas for Students:
  1. Collect recyclables and donate the money raised
  2. Write letters to family/friends as a class asking for support
  3. Older students could plan an event like a benefit concert, flag football tournament, date auction, or talent show, and donate the cost of admission and any donations collected during the event
  4. Charity dinner – invite members of community and give proceeds towards a water project
  5. Host a screening of our documentary, *La Source*, which tells the story of the water crisis in Haiti. Learn more at:  
[www.lasourcemovie.com](http://www.lasourcemovie.com)

## Conclusion

### **Slide 11: Frank Clark Quote**

**Suggested time: 3 minutes**

“Real generosity is doing something nice for someone who will never find out.” - Frank Clark

- What does that mean?
- What’s the difference between doing something to have someone see and doing something secretly?

*Encourage your students to go out this week and do one “secret act of kindness”*

**To learn more about Generosity Water, check out our website:  
[www.generositywater.com](http://www.generositywater.com)**

**Download our Press Kit for the most updated info about the water crisis and our water projects around the world at:  
[www.generositywater.com/media/resources](http://www.generositywater.com/media/resources)**

**If you’re in the Los Angeles area and would like a Generosity Water representative to attend your class or assist in any way, please contact us!**

**For any other questions, contact our office:**

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