

Y2 Signs and Symbols LF3 Uses of water

Teacher notes

Objective

To understand and appreciate how lucky we are to have the gift of water.

Resources

Flipchart, four identical containers suitable for carrying water, one bucket of water, selection of PE equipment to create four routes, outdoor area. Activity sheet 1

Key vocabulary

Water, life, drought, flood, hazards, luxury, essential.

Key questions

How do we use water in our daily life?

How do we get water when we need it?

Can everyone in the world access water in the same way we do?

What can we do to help?

Tasks

1) Working with children in small groups, give each group a container of water. Ask them to make a list of all the things that they could do with this simple cup of water. If they need help, ask them to think of all the ways in which they have already used water today.

2) Record list of uses on flipchart. Now ask children to think of other uses of water, that they may not have used themselves today, but that they are still familiar with (swimming pools, washing the car, watering the garden, rides at theme parks etc)

3) Add these to the list, and then ask the children to decide which ones are essential, and which are not.

4) Explain that water has many uses, some are crucial to our lives and our survival, and some are not, but simply make life more comfortable.

Activity 1

Preparation-this activity is easier outside, and will need four routes planned for each of the groups of children to navigate. The routes should vary in complexity, one route should be very simple and quick, with the others varying in difficulty-maybe involving climbing over some low PE apparatus, balancing, travelling over or under obstacles etc. All four routes need to start and finish in the same place, with one large bucket of water placed centrally at the far end of the course.

Choose four children, and make sure each child has exactly the same empty water container. Explain that there are still parts of the world where it is necessary to walk for long distances in order to collect water, and that the water may not be clean.

Explain that each of the four children represents a family, and that they are required to travel along their allocated route with their empty water container, fill their container from the bucket at the end, and then return along the same route as quickly and carefully as they can, trying not to spill any water.

When completed, ask for the children's thoughts-was the activity fair? If not, why not? How could this relate to a real life situation-(discuss obstacles and distances people might really face when walking to collect water)

Remind children of their original lists of water uses-reflect on how a child in a less economically developed country (LEDC) might want to use water-would you expect to find swimming pools? Golf courses?

Activity 2

Children complete activity sheet showing uses of water, categorising the uses into what is essential, and what is not.

Bring children together for final reflection-in an LEDC, water is needed for drinking, washing, cooking, watering crops, and keeping animals alive, in order to provide a living-encourage children to think about how we use water-do we leave taps running? Are we careful not to waste water?

Success criteria

I understand that water is a special gift to us, and that we should not take it for granted.