

PROTECTING THE EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENT. SAVING WATER.

LESSON PLAN

Topic: Water in Europe – how much do we really need?

Overview

Many people don't actually realize how important water is for our existence. We need it in practically every single area. And the truth is that there is less and less drinkable water in the world. The Lesson will concentrate on some basic water-related environmental issues in the European context. Some European statistics will also be involved, especially concerning water consumption.

Objectives

Students will:

- Learn why water is essential for a human being,
- Find out how much water we really have in the world,
- Think of ways to save more water,
- Get to know numbers and figures concerning water in Europe,
- Improve their skills of online information search,
- Practise basic arithmetical skills.

Materials

- an overhead projector,
- laptop or computer with the internet access,
- tablets or smartphones for students (also with the internet access),
- blank paper sheets,
- infographics (from the attachment).

Step 1 – INTRODUCTION

The teacher talks to the students on what they use water for, what they need it for in their daily lives. Next, the teacher steers the conversation in the way to make students realize other usages: for food production, agriculture, crop cultivation, production of everyday objects, entertainment (such as water parks etc.).

The teacher introduces the question: How much water do you think there is on Earth (A lot? Little?)

Step 2 – PRESENTATION

The teacher shows the students a short youtube film:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wZK2xTNzgg8>. In order to explain and summarize the message of the film, the teacher shows icongraphics presenting the real amount of water in the world (attachment).

Step 3 – PRACTICE

The students get divided into 2-4 person groups (depending on the number of mobile devices available). Each group receives a device and a blank sheet of paper.

The task is to search for the following information:

- a. How much water does an average European use up during 24 hours.
- b. How many people live in Europe.
- c. How much water a citizen of a chosen country uses up per day?

After having found out the necessary information, the students calculate:

- a. How much water do all Europeans use up during a day (24 hours).
- b. How much more / less water does a citizen of a chosen country use per day than an average European?
- c. How much water does a chosen average citizen use up during a year.
- d. How much water does a chosen average citizen use up during a period of seven years.

The teacher's task at this stage is to supervise and counsel.

Step 4 – CONCLUSION and EVALUATION

When all groups are ready, the teacher asks:

If there is so little fresh water in the world and we use so much of it, what can and should be done to save more water?

Students answers are collected and put on the blackboard.

If time allows, "Save Water in Europe" posters may be created and displayed.

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