



## What's going on this week?

In this week's poster, residents queue for water at a natural spring in Cape Town, South Africa. There have been growing tensions and one arrest at the spring where people go to collect water because of a severe drought in South Africa's drought-hit city of Cape Town, where authorities have introduced a new water restriction this week in an attempt to avoid what it calls "Day Zero," the day when it will have to turn off most taps.

### Main question:

**Do we take water for granted?**

### Listen, think, share

- Look at the poster and talk about what we think might be happening. Explain that the picture was taken recently in Cape Town, South Africa. Explain that usually, many people get their water from taps and showers like we do in the UK but due to very serious water shortages, they have had to make huge changes to their daily lives to try to prevent reaching "Day Zero," the name given to the day when most of the water will need to be turned off.
- Read through the Level 6 water restrictions introduced in January to the people living in Cape Town from the assembly resource. Talk about which you might find the most difficult. Explain that the drought in Cape Town is starting to cause huge tensions in many communities, with arguments and fights becoming increasingly common. Why do you think this might be the case? If you had to seriously think about and reduce the water you use at home, do you think it would cause stress?
- Following the heavy snowfall recently, parts of the UK were left without water temporarily due to burst pipes. For a short time, they will have experienced what life might be like without our usual easy access to water. What do you think you would find hardest about not having water readily available from our taps? E.g. hot baths, making drinks, washing etc.

### Reflection

In the UK we often moan about the rain, but our climate means that we are lucky enough to rarely have to worry if we'll have enough water. There are many people around the world whose lack of water is a daily concern.



## KS1 Focus

### Question:

**Why is water important?**

### Listen, think, share

- Talk about the different times that we use water over a typical day. Are we surprised by the amount of water that we use?
- Discuss how water is essential for how we live and that we use water for so many things but it's often something we don't think about. Talk about how because water usually flows so freely from a tap, we don't often take time to think about how lucky we are that it's so readily available!
- Explain that droughts, periods where water supply is low, are rare in the UK, why do we think this might be? Talk about our weather and that we have a lot of rain that we can use.
- Explain the situation in Cape Town and that many people there, who would usually use water like we do (from taps), are having to make huge changes in how they live and really think about if the water they are using is essential.
- Look at the pictures of different situations from the KS1 resource. How would these be affected if we weren't able to have easy access to water? Talk about which use the water. Which do you think you would miss if you had to cut back on using water?

### Reflection

Water might seem to be all around us, but in some parts of the world, people struggle to have enough. We must be thankful and not wasteful for the water we have!



## KS2 Focus

### Question:

**If water shortages don't currently affect us, should we be concerned?**

### Listen, think, share

- Droughts in the UK are unusual, but not unheard of. Has anyone ever heard of any stories about droughts in the past? The last drought was in 2012. People were advised to take short showers and not leave the taps running whilst they brush their teeth. Do you think we should make practices like these, part of our everyday lives?
- Read travel journalist Hugh Morris's thoughts following his recent trip to Cape Town from the KS2 resource. Do we think his experiences will have made him question his own water consumption of water now he's back in the UK? Is your water consumption something you ever think about? Do you think it is something we should think about more?
- Make a list of all the times we use water in a typical day. Is it more or less than we thought?
- Do we think our water consumption really matters if we're not at risk of a drought? Why? Explain that it actually takes a lot of time, money and power to treat our water to make sure it's safe for us to consume.

### Reflection

Behind the scenes, it takes a lot of work to get the water we find so easily flowing from the taps! We must be sure to think mindfully about how we use it and encourage others to do the same.



## Picture News

### KS2 Cross-Curricular Ideas

**English:** Ask the children to re-cap some of the suggestions made during the main assembly of ways that water could be reduced. Use the information and any other suggestions they might have to create a persuasive and informative leaflet encouraging people to reduce water consumption. Include organisational and presentational features.

**Maths:** In Cape Town, one of the ways of reducing water consumption is limiting people to a maximum of 87 litres per day. Ask the children how much a litre is. If possible show them a 1 litre on a measuring container. How many litres does a bath contain? How many litres of water should they drink each day? Ask the children to estimate their own water consumption. Could the amounts be recorded using imperial measures?

**Science/Geography:** Look at the water cycle. Use it to consider why Cape Town may be suffering from drought. Ask the children to consider other reasons, as well as decreased rainfall, such as population increase.

**Art:** Ask the children to create a painting of water. Look at techniques to create ripples and show the water reflecting objects. Consider brush strokes, blending colours and how to use different brush strokes to create texture.

**Computing:** Create an underwater animation or game using a program such as Scratch. Encourage the children to discuss and share algorithms they create with others in the class.



## Picture News

### KS1 Cross-Curricular Ideas

**English:** Ask the children to think about where they find water: river, lake, stream, sea, puddle, tap. Focus on one of the listed. Ask them to think of adjectives to describe it to a partner. Create a water description using pictures, words and sentences.

**Maths:** Explain that capacity (the amount something can contain) is often measured using litres and millilitres. Show the children a number of containers. Measure 1 litre of water and show them how much this is. Ask the children to decide whether the capacity of the containers is larger or smaller than a litre. Can they estimate the containers capacity?

**Science:** Floating and sinking. Ask the children to predict and then test which objects they think will float and which will sink when placed in water.

**DT:** Ask the children to design and make a fish. Use a plastic water or drinks bottle. Decorate the bottle using tissue paper then add fins and eyes. You could hang your fish around the room to display them!

**Role-play:** Create a water zone for the week. If possible, have a water tray out or just use the sink. Allow the children to explore pouring, capacity, floating and sinking etc. further. Ask the children to think about what they use water for and how much they think they might use.

**MFL:** Learn to ask for a drink using the MFL studied in your school.



## Picture News

### This Week's Useful Websites

This week's news story  
<http://bbc.in/2H8ty8q>

### This Week's Useful Videos

Cape Town's drought  
<https://ind.pn/2oOsMXA>

Living without water in the Sahara  
Desert  
[www.bbc.co.uk/education/clips/zs6fgk7](http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/clips/zs6fgk7)