



water
in
focus

“Water scarcity may be the most under appreciated global environmental challenge of our time”

-World Watch Institute

WATER IN FOCUS

A Global Photography Project and Exhibition raising awareness and inspiring dialogue among youth about water conservation, water shortage, water pollution and accessibility to water.

Be the Solution...

Participate in the Water in Focus project where students are called to action as they examine environmental justice issues centered on the theme of water.



Grab your digital cameras and get ready to invite your class on an adventure as they explore water issues through a new “lens”.

Just Add Water & PHOTOGRAPH!

The average person in the United States uses 80-100 gallons of water each day. The recommended basic water requirement is 13 gallons per day. How much water do you use?

This is the chance for students to view water through a new “lens” as they photograph water!



Urge students to think creatively about what they want to capture and how to effectively create that shot.

- Waters of Life: Document your relationship to water by photographing each way you interact with water in a 24 hour period.

- Document water sources in your community (pipes, rivers, oceans, rain, streams, sinks, water factories, etc.).

- Capture the process of gathering water or finding access to clean water. How do you obtain the water you need each day?

Drops of Inspiration...

Need help developing ideas of what to capture on film?

Take a look at these>>

- Water Forms: Take pictures of water in different states-ice, steam, snow, liquid.

- Contained: Using different vantage points, capture containers of water in an interesting way.

- Water in Focus: Pretend you are in charge of creating an ad for a water conservation/water issues campaign. Take some photographs that could be used for ads or billboards in the campaign.



The Dripping Point

"We are the one we've been waiting for"
-Alice Walker

Questions For Dialogue:



USAGE

- Where does your water come from?
- How do you see water being used inside of your home/school/community?
- How do you see water being used outside of your home/school/community?
- Where does water go after it is used?
- How do you see water being wasted?



ENVIRONMENTALISM:

- What do you know about water pollution?
- What is a water shortage?
- What is important about water conservation?



POWER:

- Who owns water?
- How much does water cost?
- Can water be owned? If so, who should own it?



JUSTICE:

- Who has access to water?
- Who has access to clean water?
- What is the difference between accessibility to water around the world?



ACTIVISM:

- How does water affect you?
- What can we do to ensure clean water for future generations?
- What can we do to preserve our oceans, lakes, and rivers?



CHANGE:

- What changes can we make to ensure clean oceans, lakes and rivers?
- What changes can we make to ensure access to water?
- What changes can we make to conserve water?



SUSTAINABILITY:

- What are some solutions to water problems?
- What are some ways you can use less water?
- How do you see water being wasted?

Diving In

1.1 billion people in the world do not have access to safe drinking water, roughly one-sixth of the world's population.
-Blue Planet Run



Matters of Light and Depth...

Start your water journey with the viewing of photographs that include water from around the world.

Visit www.waterinfofocus.blogspot.com for example images.



Try using the Visual Training Strategy (VTS) to help students examine each photograph. To follow this method, after displaying a photograph ask the following questions:

- 1. What is happening in this picture?**
- 2. What do you see that makes you say that?**
- 3. Is there anything else you can find in the picture?**
- 4. What do you think the photographer was trying to communicate?**
- 5. How does the photograph make you feel?**

Take time to discuss water issues and photography terms as they arise during the discussion.

Continue using these questions as you view all of the photographs.

Let it FLOW

Less than 1% of the world's fresh water (about 0.007% of all the water on earth) is readily accessible for direct human use.

Take a few minutes to reflect on water using the photographs as a catalyst for dialogue and writing.

Take your pick between the options below:



Haiku Poetry:

- Create a Haiku poem that reflects in greater detail about an aspect of water you photographed.



Free Write:

- Let it flow as you free write about anything pertaining to water-your relationship to water, accessibility to water, water pollution, water conservation, water around the world, etc.



"Water, water everywhere..." Poem:

- Create an original poem.



Create a slogan

- Create a slogan for an ad campaign to raise awareness about a specific water issue facing us today.



Be a reporter

- Write a news article which includes research and interviews regarding our water crisis.



Create Change....

Please ask student to edit through their photographs and submit up to 5 good quality/high resolution images.

- Each JPEG should be labeled with a title, the name of the student, and the city/country where the image was taken.

- If a writing piece was also created, please submit a scan or a photograph (jpeg) of the final written piece.



All digital photographs (jpeg files) must be submitted to Outside the Lens by March 25nd, 2009!
Please visit www.outsidethelens.org and click on **Water in Focus** to submit images.

This is an ongoing project. All entries submitted after this date will be part of our virtual mural.

Mark your calendar for our opening event,

Water in Focus

May 2nd, 2009 at 6:00 pm

at the University of California San Diego (UCSD)

Price Center - The Loft



Please e-mail Niki Even at

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with any questions or for more information about the *Water in Focus* project.

**OUTSIDE
THE
LENS**
A LITERACY THROUGH
THE ARTS PROGRAM

water
focus