



Theme: Water (Grades 9-12)

Post-Visit Activity #2

Global Water Issues - An Examination of the Millennium Development Goals

Overview:

In this activity, students will review different world water issues they learned about at the Springs Preserve. They will have an opportunity to discover more about global programs that have been initiated in order to combat problems associated with poverty by examining the Millennium Development Goals.

Objectives:

- Students will understand the issues facing the world on a global scale.
- Students will examine specific problems associated with water issues and how countries or cultures are affected
- Students will understand that consumption patterns, conservation efforts, and cultural or social practices in countries have varying environmental impacts
- Students will locate, organize, interpret, and synthesize information in multiple primary and secondary sources to support ideas and positions
- Students will read and apply multi-step directions to perform complex procedures and tasks
- Students will summarize and evaluate communications that inform and persuade
- Students will make formal oral or multi-media presentations, using vocabulary and public speaking techniques appropriate to the audience and purpose
- Students will participate in problem-solving conversations or group discussions by identifying, synthesizing, and evaluating data
- Students will predict the impact of changes in the level of economic development on the quality of life in developing and developed countries

Materials:

- Pencil
- Paper
- Computer

Background:

1. Introduce the lesson by discussing the different world water issues examined while at the Springs Preserve. Ask the students the following questions to start the dialogue:

- What did you learn at the Springs Preserve about global water issues?
- What affected you the most: the video, hands-on demonstration, or the discussion with other students?
- What particular statistic stuck in your minds, or what mental image do you have?
- If you could take away one thing from your trip, what would it be?

2. Students will now have the opportunity to learn more about global programs that have been initiated in order to combat problems associated with poverty. Introduce the Millennium Development Goals by having the students do the following:

- Research Millennium Development Goals on the Internet
- Investigate background information or articles found on Millennium Goals website.
 - <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/index.html>
 - <http://www.undp.org/mdg/>

3. Teacher Introduction:

"The Millennium Development Goals were adopted five years ago by all the world's Governments as a blueprint for building a better world in the 21st century." Kofi Annan

The MDGs represent a global partnership that has grown from the commitments and targets established at the world summits of the 1990s. Responding to the world's main development challenges and to the calls of civil society, the MDGs promote poverty reduction, education, maternal health, gender equality, and aim at combating child mortality, AIDS and other diseases.

Set for the year 2015, the MDGs are an agreed set of goals that can be achieved if all actors work together and do their part. Poor countries have pledged to govern better, and invest in their people through health care and education. Rich countries have pledged to support them, through aid, debt relief, and fairer trade.

"We will have time to reach the Millennium Development Goals – worldwide and in most, or even all, individual countries – but only if we break with business as usual. We cannot win overnight. Success will require sustained action across the entire decade between now and the deadline. It takes time to train the teachers, nurses and engineers; to build the roads, schools and hospitals; to grow the small and large businesses able to create the jobs and income needed. So we must start

now. And we must more than double global development assistance over the next few years. Nothing less will help to achieve the Goals."

United Nations Secretary-General

4. Listed on the Home Page are the Goals that the team put forth, that should be reached by 2015:

- To eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
- To achieve universal primary education
- To promote gender equality and empower women
- To reduce child mortality
- To improve maternal health
- To combat HIV/AIDs, malaria, and other diseases
- To ensure environmental sustainability
- To develop a global partnership for development

<http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/index.html>

Activity:

1. Split the students into small groups of three or four.
2. Assign each group to a particular Millennium Goal. Give them 2-3 days to complete the project.
3. The students will research their goal. Articles on specifics can be found on the website. There are also links to additional articles pertaining to each goal.
4. Students will produce a PowerPoint presentation and discuss the following:
 - Describe the Millennium Goal that your group was assigned.
 - Discuss the background of the specific issue, such as why this is a top goal of the United Nations, how many people this issue effects, what the results are, and how long this has been an issue.
 - Why is it important to the global economy and the citizens in the Third World that this goal be reached?
 - Why is having clean water an important issue related to your goal?
 - Who does this particular issue directly affect? Who are the people who are affected the most, and what is their nationality? Specifically, describe how the issue affects people of different ages, races, genders.
 - What organizations are currently involved with this project? Have they been successful? Name one successful effort and explain why it was successful. Name one failure if there is

one, and discuss why the group thinks this initiative has failed.

- What are the roadblocks in reaching the current UN Goal? Have the students list three of the roadblocks. How can countries, like the United States, help make this goal attainable?
- Proposal: The group will propose one specific solution to the problem. Students will explain in detail how their idea will help solve this crisis.
- Students will address these questions and the proposal in a 15-minute presentation.