

Importing water, exporting drought?

Lesson Plan

Lesson2: Water futures – what can be done? (approx. 40 minutes)

Learning outcomes	<p>Students:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • learn about the concept of environmental stewardship; • identify some ways in which groups of players are trying to work together to manage water resources in more sustainable and integrated ways; • think critically about ways in which global society can negotiate the multiple challenges that it faces in the 21st century – of which water insecurity is just one of many.
<p><i>NB Guidance notes for each section of the lesson can be found in the fact sheet & teachers notes</i></p>	
Starter	<p><i>What is meant by water stewardship?</i> Stewardship of the environment comprises several conceptual elements. These include sustainable development and inter-generational equity. Start the lesson with a brief debate – find out whether your students truly believe that there is a moral imperative for their generation to become ‘caretakers’ of the natural world.</p>
Main activity	<p><i>Using the The PowerPoint Presentation: ‘Managing Water Sustainably’ here.</i></p> <p><i>(1) Managing water supplies – the main players</i> Government, businesses, civil society and individuals can all play a role in developing ways of managing water more sustainably. The focus here should be on the delivery of integrated water resource management (IWRM). In an EU context, this could involve investigating the important Water Framework Directive (WFD) – or a case study of the excellent work done by the Mersey Basin Campaign.</p> <p><i>(2) The wider sustainability challenge</i> This part of the lesson places worries about water management within the context of a wider set of concerns for the world’s people and places. The worry is that boycotting products with a high water footprint could damage other key trade initiatives such as Fair Trade or organic farming (which can still be a water-intensive activity).</p>
Plenary	<p><i>Which is the key challenge?</i></p> <p>This final activity gets students debating a big issue. What is the most important 21st century challenge? How do we decide how to prioritise our actions? What key information should shops provide to consumers about the products they buy and the impacts these may have had on the environment or people in other societies?</p>
Resources	<p><i>This lesson is fully supported with the following resources:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PowerPoint presentation (‘Managing water sustainably’) • Plenary group activity: Word document: ‘Lesson2 Discussion Activity’ • Short videos: (i) Robin Farrington from World Wildlife Fund (WWF), discussing the importance of water as a resource and the UK’s water footprint; • Mersey Basin basic fact-sheet <p><i>Other resources:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water Framework Directive website: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-framework/index_en.html • Mersey Basin Campaign website: http://www.merseybasin.org.uk/