

# Water Crisis: Local and Global Issues

## Lesson Plan

Developed by:  
Teacher Margaret Rosenberg

Institution: Observatory Junior School, South Africa

### Introduction

This lesson plan aims to sensitise students about the effects of climate change on water scarcity in cities around the world.

### Objectives or Learning Outcomes

Students will be able to:

- Investigate basic concepts about water scarcity and its connection to climate change.
- Recognise some of the challenges and characteristics of water scarcity around the world.
- Present their ideas and research to the rest of the class.

### Time required

- Session 1 (60 min): Introduction to the theme through teacher's PPT presentation. Students conduct research and present their findings to the rest of the class.

### Resources required:

- Computers and smartphones.
- [BBC article](#) and PPT presentation.



10-13  
Years old



# Activity

## Classroom session

1

- The teacher introduces the theme through a question: 'How much water do you use per day?' Students guess and can simulate water consumption using an [online water calculator](#).
- The teacher encourages a brief discussion about the large numbers of daily water consumption.
- The teacher introduces the topic of water scarcity and climate change through a PPT.
- Students read the [BBC article](#) about water scarcity and teacher facilitates a group discussion to check understanding.
- Students are divided in small groups. Each group will focus on one city. They will have to research and present the water scarcity issues faced in that city.  
Leading questions:
  - What is the water source? Is it compromised? Why (not)?
  - What are the main issues related to water in that city? Are they similar to problems we face in Cape Town?
  - Who is responsible for the provision of clean water in the city?
  - What are some possible solutions to the current problems?
- Students present their findings.
- The teacher presents global water issues such as: droughts, floods, changing weather patters, failing water infrastructure and management, etc.
- A list of actions of 'How we can save water' is drawn up on the board.
- Students draft their own personal list of actions they can take at home or at school. Those students who want to can share it with the group.
- Students sing a song they had previously written entitled "Water Crisis".

## References

BBC Article - 'The 11 cities that may run out of water apart from Cape Town' <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-42982959>

'Where does our water come from?'

<https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/discover/science/nature/water cycle>

'How much drinking water do we have?'

<https://www.kj.com/blog/water-conservation-the-clear-choice>

This lesson plan was selected from the [2019 Eco-Schools competition](#) in which teachers were invited to develop and submit lesson plans that promote action oriented pedagogy about specific Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).