

Unit 3 Moving water

1. Whole class instruction

Objective: To show children that water is bulky and heavy and that moving it by hand can use up huge amounts of time. The purpose is to develop empathy for those without pipes in developing world countries and also with generations up to the mid 20th centuries. You can cross-connect to Victorians.



1.1. Go to textbook pages 10, 18, 20

“Our water gets to our homes out of sight. Water we have used also goes through pipes underground. But how does all this work? ”

Textbook pages 10, 18, 20

- ▶ There is a lot to do here, by showing that a utility network looks like – and therefore how expensive it is, what happens if there is a leak or a blockage, how it must be clean (even if we don't always need it clean, such as for garden watering) it would be more expensive to have two sets of pipes.

1.2. Go to Creative Topics ‘Water pipes’

“How big are pipes and how far down are they?”

- ▶ Use the Creative Topic book to investigate water pipes under streets and the countryside.

Creative topic book
‘Water pipes’ Reading
Room Bookcase 13.

2a. Group exploration

2.1. Carrying water

- ▶ Get children to carry water about. For example, suppose they needed to have a wash and they did not have running water, they would have to go to where the water was, fill up a container and carry it to where they were going to wash. Get them to try this using a container such as a plastic bucket and filling a plastic bowl at the other side of the playground. If they think this is stupid, then go to

page 20 and ask how stupid they think the children in those pictures are. And they have no health and safety rules, so they have to do it day after day. Time how long it takes. Imagine you had to fill a dozen bowls a day. How much of your day would that use up? Could you do your homework, play with the computer or play games and fetch water. Emphasise how much less children in developing world countries can do when they have water to fetch and carry – and they don't just carry it across the playground; they may have many miles to walk each time.



Check school regulations about carrying heavy things.

2b. Literacy activity

A poster for water

- ▶ See if you can make up a charity poster to help raise money for providing water supplies to a poor country. Use the creative Topic Water Pipes to find a suitable picture, then capture it as a screen-grab.

There are pictures for this at the start of creative topic book 'Water pipes' Reading Room Bookcase 13.

3. Plenary session

- ▶ Get children to say what they think they have learned and present it perhaps on the whiteboard or in their own books.

4. Further work/homework

- ▶ Get children to look for where the water comes in to their homes. Can they find the water cover (small square metal cover). Their parents might be able to help. OR Where is the main tap that can turn water off inside the home (useful when you need to change a washer etc).

If you are carrying water for 2 hours a day what else can you NOT do (play games, learn at school, relax and so on. Carrying water is a great limitation on what poor people have extra time to do, such as working to make more money. It keeps them poor.