

Student Worksheet

DIRECTIONS

Read the following news story and answer the reading comprehension and discussion questions. Use additional paper if necessary.

STORY

Californians Move to 'Toilet-to-Tap' Water Recycling, 02/11/08

http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/features/us/jan-june08/water_2-11.html

READING COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. What is California doing in response to water shortages?

2. Aside from drinking water, what are other ways recycled water is used in the United States?

3. What are the three steps in the filtration process?

4. Where does San Diego currently get most of its water?

5. What are some of the other steps San Diego is taking to reduce its use of imported water?

6. What is expected to happen with the world wide water shortage by 2050?

7. What are some of the dangerous implications of water shortage around the world?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (more research might be needed)

1. Do you think water reclamation and filtration is a good solution for water shortages? Why or why not? Is there a difference between thinking it's a good idea and actually agreeing to switch over to recycled water? Discuss the disconnect between thinking something is good for someone else and thinking it is the right step for you.

2. What do you think the international community should do about the looming water crisis? What should be the role of the United States?

3. Research the water situation in your area. Where does your water come from? Does your city use water recycling? Brainstorm ideas about how to prevent, or fix, a water shortage situation in your town.

4. The U.N. claims that individuals need a little over 13 gallons of water a day for drinking, cooking, cleaning, and sanitation and over a billion people are unable to receive even that. In contrast, the average American uses close to 70 gallons of water a day, according to the American Water Works Association. What does that say about life in America compared to the rest of the world? Does this need to change, and if so, how?

Extension Activity

Have students write a 300-500 word essay on this topic providing clear examples. Send your completed editorial to NewsHour Extra (extra@newshour.org). Exceptional essays might be published on our Web site.