



It's no joke! lesson plan - Primary

Introduction

These lesson plans link to WaterAid's World Toilet Day campaign - **It's no joke!** They introduce pupils to global sanitation issues using comedy to get them talking about the subject. They aim to engage pupils with the issues, and allow them to express their own views on the current situation in a variety of ways. This includes creating their own toilet jokes. These lessons act as a stimulus for debate, and aim to get pupils involved with campaigning locally to make global change.

The lesson plan can also be used to mark **World Toilet Day on 19 November**, a day created by the United Nations, to recognise the importance of sanitation.

Curriculum links

Our sanitation and joke writing activities can be used across the curriculum in a number of ways:

English

- Encourage pupils to discuss words and phrases that capture the reader's interest and imagination.
- Enable pupils to assess the effectiveness of their own, and others' writing and suggest improvements.
- Encourage pupils to read their own writing aloud to a group or the whole class, using appropriate intonation, and controlling the tone and volume so that the meaning is clear.

Geography

- Enable pupils to describe and understand key aspects of human geography, economic activity, and the distribution of natural resources including energy, food, minerals and water.

Aims

- To encourage creative writing by asking pupils to write their own toilet joke.
- To understand what is meant by sanitation.
- To understand the current global sanitation situation.
- To imagine what life without sanitation would be like, and the impact this has on day to day life.
- To learn about the work of WaterAid.
- To understand what the Australian government is doing to tackle global sanitation issues.
- To engage with local MPs about global sanitation issues.

Key words

Sanitation – the safe disposal of human waste (access to safe toilets).

Influencing – taking our messages to those who have the power to make change happen.

Government – a group of people who have the authority to govern a country.

Policy – a decision for how something should be run or achieved.

Resources

All available to download from:

www.wateraid.org/au/get-involved/itsnojoke

- Papua New Guinea case study
- Tips for writing hilariously funny jokes
- 'It's no joke' postcard
- Super toilet film:
www.youtube.com/watch?v=77b9zm3jpFE



www.wateraid.org/au/get-involved/itsnojoke

Lesson plan

What makes you laugh? (20 minutes)

- Ask the pupils what makes them laugh.
- Explain to the pupils that jokes can be used as a way of introducing a topic that people aren't always comfortable discussing.
- You will eventually ask the pupils to create their own jokes, but introduce the idea by asking them if they have a particular existing joke which they like and would be willing to share with the class.
- (Optional) If lots of the students wish to tell existing jokes, you could set this activity up as a mini comedy show, asking the rest of the pupils to cheer at different volumes depending on how much they like each joke.
- Explain to the pupils that WaterAid need them to make a difference by coming up with their own wacky toilet jokes.

What is sanitation? (10-15 minutes)

- Ask the pupils to imagine not having a toilet.
- Ask them to think about what they would do if there were no toilets available for them to use.

Optional extra for younger students

If you have space, ask pupils to role play a scenario where there were no toilets available.

The impact of having no toilets (15 minutes)

Resources:

- Papua New Guinea case study
- Super Toilet film

- Read out or display the quote from Julian who lives in Papua New Guinea. Show the pupils where Papua New Guinea is on a map, or ask them to locate it themselves. Explain that the quote highlights that lots of children have to go to the toilet in the bush, which is unhygienic, spreads illness and leaves them at risk of animal attacks.

- Show the Super Toilet film:
www.youtube.com/watch?v=77b9zm3jpFE

- Explain that the situation in some developing countries today is similar to the situation in Australia in the 1880's. Ask why it is important to keep drinking water separate from sewage and waste water.
- Explain that roughly 443 million days at school are lost due to poor water and sanitation facilities. Why is this a problem in poorer communities?
- Ask the pupils to brainstorm any other ways that not having access to a toilet might affect them.

The global sanitation situation (20 minutes)

Resources:

- Papua New Guinea case study
- Read the case study provided, and explain the difference sanitation can bring to people.
- Ask your pupils to gather facts around global sanitation. There are lots of useful facts in different locations on our website:
www.wateraid.org/au.
- They will use the facts they find later in the lesson.
- This could be run as a homework exercise if there is not enough time within the lesson.



www.wateraid.org/au/get-involved/itsnojoke

How do you write a good joke? (45 minutes)

Resources:

- Tips for writing hilariously funny jokes
- It's no joke postcard

- Explain that one of the ways WaterAid makes improvements to global sanitation issues is by influencing governments. Tell the students that they will be helping WaterAid to influence the Australian government, using humour to grab their attention and the message across.
- Hand out the 'Tips for writing hilariously funny jokes' sheet, and ask the pupils to decide whether they are going to write a riddle, a pun, a knock knock joke or a tongue twister. There is an example of each on the worksheet.
- Ask them to use what they have learnt to create their own toilet related joke.
- To integrate WaterAid's work into the pupils' jokes, as well as to give the pupils inspiration, ask them to do some research about the technologies we use in our work. We give some of our technologies really funny names, such as the gulper. Ask the students to go to: <http://www.wateraid.org/au/what-we-do/our-approach> to see if they can find any more funny technologies they could use in their jokes.
- Once they have finalised their jokes, ask them to swap jokes and make suggestions to improve each other's work.
- Give them an opportunity to make the suggested changes if they agree. Now provide each pupil with an 'It's no joke' postcard print out, and ask them to copy the joke onto the correct side.
- Explain that this is a way of engaging their local MP with the global water and sanitation issues they have learnt about.
- On the other side of the postcard, ask the pupils to write up a fact about the global sanitation situation that they have found from their own independent research. All facts should be checked against the fact sheet provided to ensure they are accurate.
- Ask the pupils to stick the two sides of the postcard together.

The idea of this activity is to engage with your local MP, so you can either do this by:

- Asking the pupils to film each other reading out their jokes to camera. They then turn their sheet over and say in a serious tone to camera 'but it's no joke' - along with their sanitation fact. These videos can then be posted on social media and you should 'tag' your local MP to get their attention. Also tag WaterAid Australia in any social media posts to let us know what you are doing!

And/ Or

- Sending the postcards to your local MP in the post with a covering letter explaining what is enclosed, what the pupils have learnt so far, and what they wish the MP to do.

Optional extension activity:

- The activity could be extended by adding a competitive edge. The jokes created by the pupils could be judged by a panel of teachers and school staff
- The top five jokes could be tweeted on **World Toilet Day (19 November)** from a school twitter account, using the **#itsnojoke** hashtag. The joke with the most twitter interactions at the end of the day wins the competition. If the twitter competition is launched on **World Toilet Day** you should include the hashtag **#worldtoiletday #wateraidaustralia** in your posts. Please 'tag' us at **@WaterAidAus** in any tweets sent.

Additional activity:

Why not hold a comedy show or competition at your school to raise awareness and funds for WaterAid? Pupils could perform their toilet jokes, riddles and limericks with the audience voting for the funniest act! Ask for a small donation to attend the show and help WaterAid reach more communities around the world with lifesaving toilets.



www.wateraid.org/au/get-involved/itsnojoke