

DON'T DRINK THE WATER

· EARTH & BEYOND ·



CURRICULUM AREA: SCIENCE

TARGET YEAR LEVEL/S: Years 4 – 7

CLASS TIME: 60 minutes

LESSON BACKGROUND

This is a great lesson to explore the ways people in a variety of circumstances learn to solve problems with purifying water for drinking. Students will learn what Chris & Clark do to find water for drinking, as well as go through an experiment for purifying dirty water.

OUTCOMES

- Students understand how the physical environment on Earth and its position in the universe impact on the way we live.

PREPARATION

- Prior knowledge of Chris & Clark's water source
- Small water tank (such as a fish tank)
- A small glass
- Gladwrap
- A small stone
- Dirty water (A good example can be done by mixing water, charcoal and some small rocks, to replicate actual river water)

STUDENT ACTIVITY

- 1) Discuss with students what C&C might have done if they ran out of clean water in their expedition. Brainstorm possible ways to obtain clean water.
- 2) Discuss the idea of WATER PURIFICATION. Use the following experiment to demonstrate ONE way of purifying simple dirty water:
 - Fill the tank with the dirty water no more than 10cm high.
 - Place the empty glass in the centre the tank of dirty water
 - Place the gladwrap over the tank slightly loosely, but make sure it is still rather airtight.
 - Place the small stone on the gladwrap above the glass, so that the gladwrap dips towards the centre glass
 - Place the whole apparatus in the sun, or by the window.
 - Wait a day.
 - After a day or two, the clear water should start to fill the glass.

EXTENSION

Brainstorm/research the ways that explorers and sailors could have purified seawater hundreds of years ago after months at sea.