

Water Worries

Almost 1 billion people don't have clean water, a report finds.

What do you do when you're thirsty? Chances are you get a glass of water from the sink. Not everyone can do that. In fact, almost 1 billion people around the world don't have clean drinking water.



AP Images

A boy in Africa stands near a water pump. It is the only source of water in his village.

That's the finding of a report by world aid groups. The study looked at the living conditions of people around the globe. Many have to walk hours each day to collect water from rivers. Often that water is not safe to drink, because it's dirty.

About 2.6 billion people don't have safe places to go to the bathroom, the report says. Lakshmi grew up in a poor village in India. That is a country in Asia. For a long time, her school did not have bathrooms. She and her classmates had to use bushes outside.

World leaders say it's important for kids to have good hygiene, or cleanliness. Drinking clean water and washing your hands after using the bathroom can help prevent diseases.

Aid workers have been helping by installing pipes around the world. To install is to set up. The pipes have given people water in their homes. Aid workers also have been teaching people how to filter, or clean, rain water. They even have built bathrooms. That's made a difference

for Lakshmi. "My school has toilets now," she said.

Still, there is a lot more to do, aid worker Clarissa Brocklehurst says. "We must act as one ... community to [supply] water and [good hygiene] for all."

Watch Your Water

How much water do you use? A lot! On average, each American goes through about 100 gallons of water a day. That's enough to fill 1,600 drinking glasses! Here are some tips to conserve, or save, water.

Cut while you paste. Keep your pearly whites clean, but be sure to shut off the faucet while you brush. That can save about 8 gallons of water a day.

Clean up your act. Put away that rubber ducky. Taking a bath can use up to 70 gallons of water, while showering uses just 10 to 25 gallons of water.

Drop the drips. In one day, a faucet can drip more than 20 gallons of water, and a leaky toilet can waste 200 gallons! Ask an adult to stop the drips.

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. According to the passage, what is one way to prevent diseases?

- A. building bathrooms
- B. walking to collect water
- C. washing your hands
- D. installing pipes

2. The text describes the problem that many people do not have clean water to drink.

What is one solution to this problem that is presented in this text?

- A. One solution is filtering rainwater so that it is safe to drink.
- B. One solution is turning off the faucet when you brush your teeth.
- C. One solution is getting water from the local river.
- D. One solution is using the bathroom outside.

3. It can be inferred from the passage that

- A. walking hours every day to collect water is good exercise
- B. many Americans waste a lot of water
- C. most people in the world can get clean water from a water pump
- D. children in India need to learn about water safety

4. Read the following sentences and answer the question: "Aid workers have been helping by installing pipes around the world. To install is to set up. The pipes have given people water in their homes. Aid workers also have been teaching people how to filter, or clean, rain water."

What does the word **aid** mean?

- A. thirst
- B. help
- C. water
- D. cleanliness

5. The primary purpose of this passage is to describe

- A. the decision of aid workers to install pipes to carry water
- B. the fact that many people in the world do not have clean water
- C. the need to build more indoor toilets
- D. the importance of good hygiene

6. What did world aid groups find when they studied people around the globe?

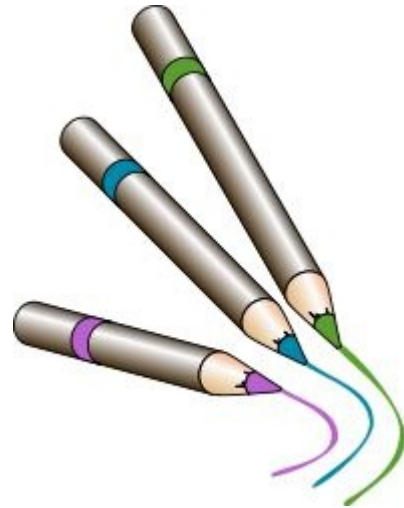
7. What can you infer from the passage about why clean drinking water is so important?

8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the word that best completes the sentence.

_____ dirty water can make people sick, it is important that water be clean.

- A. So
- B. Because
- C. But
- D. However

9. Which image shows an object that people are more likely to collect?



10. At the end of the day, does everyone in your class collect everything from their desks to take home?
