

## Teachers' Overview

### What is Oxfam Water Week?

Back for its fourth year, our popular Oxfam Water Week is designed to help young people become active and engaged global citizens by taking informed, responsible and meaningful action.

Pupils develop their thinking skills through learning about water issues around the world and many then choose to act on what they have learned. In the past three years schools and communities have raised almost £58,000 for Oxfam water projects in Mali, Niger and Liberia. Hundreds of campaign messages have been delivered to the UK Department of International Development and even to Number 10 asking the government to help reduce water vulnerability.

This year Oxfam Water Week will support Oxfam's water, sanitation and hygiene promotion projects around the world, wherever the need is greatest.

Schools have told us that Oxfam Water Week is a great way to end the summer term. If these dates are not ideal for your school, you can plan your Oxfam Water Week for whenever works best for you.



### Oxfam Water Week

7-11 July

(England and Wales)

2- 6 June

(Scotland)

### Why Water?

Water is a fundamental right for every person in the world, yet many people are without access to the water they need. Oxfam has been supporting others to overcome water vulnerability for over 50 years: you might like to show pupils our Work on Water timeline in the supplementary resources.

### Introduction to Water Week

Oxfam Water Week is divided into five sections:

1. Introduction
2. Learn
3. Think
4. Act
5. Supplementary material.

## Introductory resources help pupils to:

- Know that water is a human right recognised by the UN and understand people’s shared need for water.
- Be aware that many people are denied this right, which makes them water vulnerable.

| Activity                                | Description  | Time   |
|---|--|--|
| Introductory film and slideshow.        | Introduces Oxfam Water Week, inspiring pupils to learn more about water vulnerability and to take action.  | 10-20mins  |
| Water for life introductory activities. | Introduce pupils to the shared need of water in the lives of all people, everywhere.<br><br>Practical activities for different ages, including a sensory journey for younger pupils.<br><br>Water diary activity and slideshow to underline the importance of water in daily life. | 40-50 mins<br><br>Note: this activity includes some homework |

## Learn Think Act

Oxfam Water Week resources follow a ‘Learn, Think, Act’ sequence to enable pupils to gain an in-depth understanding of water vulnerability issues around the world. The resource works best if activities from all three parts of the sequence are used:

**Learn:** Informative and accessible resources enable pupils to learn about the causes and symptoms of water vulnerability using case studies from Oxfam projects around the world.

**Think:** An essential part of Water Week, pupils are encouraged to think critically about what can be done by individuals, communities, organisations and governments to overcome water vulnerability. The *Think* resources also include a case study of a recent Water Week project in Liberia.

**Act:** Pupils find out how Oxfam and local communities have acted to overcome water vulnerability and can then choose their own action to make a difference. They can choose to take part in the ‘Water Can Change Lives’ campaigning activity or raise money for our WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene) projects.

**Supplementary resources:** SEN materials and a range of resources from previous years are provided, including photo-stories, comprehension tasks and games.

## Learn resources

Before deciding what action to take, pupils have the opportunity to understand the meaning of water vulnerability, its causes and symptoms.

### Learn resources help pupils to:

- Understand some of the causes of water vulnerability such as climate change and conflict.
- Name some of the symptoms of water vulnerability.
- Make links between symptoms and causes.
- Learn about water vulnerability issues through case studies in several countries.

| Activity   | Description   | Time  |
|--|---|---|
| <i>Learn</i> film clips x 5 (approx 3 mins each) and two slideshows. | First slideshow introduces pupils to the meaning of water vulnerability. Second slideshow helps pupils identify causes and symptoms of water vulnerability. Film clips cover four issues which put people at risk: conflict, drought, poor water infrastructure (two clips) and flooding. | 30-40 mins                                  |
| <i>Learn</i> pupil activity.   | <i>Learn</i> pupil worksheet guides pupils' understanding of the films and helps pupils make links between causes and symptoms of water vulnerability.<br><br><i>Water vulnerability tree part 1</i> helps pupils identify causes and symptoms of water vulnerability.                    | For use during film clips<br><br>30-40 mins |
| Learn country information.   | Background information for teachers about the countries featured in the film clips: Niger, Uganda, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Sudan and Chad.  |   |

## Think resources

An essential part of Water Week, your pupils will have the opportunity to think critically about solutions to water vulnerability.

### Think resources help pupils to:

- Identify short and long-term solutions to water vulnerability.
- Know what the terms humanitarian emergency, development and campaigning mean.
- Think critically about the impact of short-term and long-term responses.
- Find out about water vulnerability in south-east Liberia.

| Activity  | Description   | Time  |
|---|---|---|
| <i>Think</i> film clips x 5 (approx 3 mins each) and slideshow. | Introduces short and long-term responses to water vulnerability. The five film clips show Oxfam dealing with the causes of water vulnerability introduced in the <i>Learn</i> film clips.   | 30-40 mins  |
| <i>Think</i> activities.  | <i>Think</i> pupil worksheet guides pupils' understanding of the films and how Oxfam works on these issues.<br><br><i>Water vulnerability tree part 2</i> allows pupils to add solutions to their issues tree.<br><br><i>Venn diagram</i> about Oxfam's humanitarian and development aid and campaigning. | For use during film clips<br><br>10-20 mins<br><br>10-20 mins |
| Liberia case study.   | <i>Liberia case study</i> : photo-story of how small-scale rice farmers are changing their lives through Oxfam's irrigation project. Pupils can apply their Water Week learning to make their own water vulnerability tree.   | 30-40 mins  |
| <i>Think</i> country information.                               | Background information for teachers about the countries featured in the film clips: Liberia, Uganda, Zimbabwe, Ethiopia, Haiti, Chad and Angola.  |   |

## Act resources

Pupils find out how Oxfam and local communities have acted to overcome water vulnerability and can then consider ways in which they might make a difference to water-vulnerable communities this year.

### Act resources help pupils to:

- Understand the role of water-vulnerable communities and Oxfam in overcoming water problems.
- Find out about the impact of previous Water Week action in Mali, Niger and Liberia.
- Think creatively and discuss ideas for taking action.
- Set objectives, plan and organise tasks.
- Carry out action and evaluate it.

| Activity                         | Description  | Time       |
|----------------------------------|--|------------|
| Act film clips x2 and slideshow. | Shows pupils the positive effects of previous Water Week action in Niger, Mali and Liberia.  | 15-20 mins |
| Act activities.                  | Pupils find out how Oxfam and water-vulnerable communities have acted to overcome water vulnerability by making a class water-vulnerability chain.                               | 25-30 mins |
|                                  | Pupils use a diamond ranking activity to prioritise their action ideas.  | 15-20 mins |
|                                  | Pupils complete a pupil action plan which breaks up their tasks into different parts.  | 20 mins    |
| Fundraising guide.               | Provides pupils with ideas for fundraising activities and explains how fundraising for Water Week will be used to support Oxfam's water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) projects. |            |
| Campaigning guide.               | Provides pupils with ideas for campaigning activities and explains how campaigning for Water Week can help reduce water vulnerability.   |            |
| Pupil evaluation.                | Helps pupils to determine the success of their chosen activity and evaluate what they have learned.  | 15 mins    |

## Using our learning resources

### Slideshows

New information will appear on most slides when you click. The blue circle on the bottom left-hand corner indicates the slide is complete.

### Time

The learning resources are adaptable, depending upon the time available, but work best if a combination of Learn, Think and Act activities are used. We recommend a minimum of two hours for the learning and thinking activities and at least an hour for action planning – although we suggest using more time if possible.

### When

Try to complete the learn and think activities in the weeks leading up to Water Week, so pupils can organise their fundraising and campaigning actions during the week itself. However, you can implement Water Week at any time that suits you and your school.

### How

Send any funds that are raised to Oxfam using the form in the fundraising leaflet. Pass on any campaign messages to your local MP. We'd also love to receive any photographs you take of your pupils carrying out Water Week activities. For more information, see our Act resources.

### Subjects

Water Week is a flexible resource, so you can tailor it for you and your school. You can implement activities:

- Within one subject (for example geography, science or citizenship).
- Across a number of subjects (cross-curricular).
- Within pastoral/PSHE/citizenship time.
- As a dedicated day of activities.

## How will Water Week benefit my school?

### For your pupils

- Encourages young people to engage with issues and devise their own responses.
- Supports the development of enquiry, analysis and reflection skills.
- Develops pupil voice.

### For your school

- Supports the development of a wider school ethos.
- Has the potential for cross-curricular or cross-phase implementation.

### For the wider community

- Helps build a vibrant and engaged school community.
- Pupils can involve parents, youth or faith organisations, and other local schools.