

WATER BINGO

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OBJECTIVE // To learn about global water usage and control

TIME // 45-60 minutes

GROUP SIZE // 5-30

MATERIALS //

- Water trivia answers, cut into individual slips (1 set of answers for each participant)
- 1 small container or envelope
- 1 bingo card per participant
- 1 marker or pen per participant
- Tape or sticky tack
- Prizes (optional, e.g. fair trade chocolate, etc.)

PREPARATION //

- Print and cut up water bingo trivia questions (see below) and put into container or envelope.
- Print enough blank bingo cards for each participant.
- Cut up trivia answers and distribute a complete set to each participant.

ACTIVITY GUIDE

1. Ask participants to create a bingo card by taping answer papers onto each of the nine squares on the grid. Three answers will be left out on each card.
2. Participants will then exchange the card they made with someone else.
3. Pick a trivia question from the container, and read it aloud, but do not give the answer.
4. Instruct participants to mark the square with the answer they think is correct on their respective bingo cards.
5. When a participant has marked a full line on their card, they should call a bingo and have their answers checked. If the line-forming answers are all correct, the participant wins.

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WATER TRIVIA QUESTIONS:

1. Who pays more for water? A poor household in Jakarta, Indonesia, or a family in London or New York?

Answer: A poor household in Jakarta pays 5 to 10 times as much for water as a wealthy family in Jakarta, and more than consumers in London or New York.ⁱ

2. Where is the majority of the Earth's freshwater located?

Answer: 70% is in polar ice caps/glaciers.ⁱⁱ

3. How many people in the world are without access to clean, safe drinking water?

Answer: 884 million do not have access to safe drinking water.ⁱⁱⁱ

4. How much water is used each day by people who do not have access to clean water?

Answer: about 5 litres a day. This is one-tenth the average daily amount used in rich countries just to flush toilets.^{iv}

5. Which industry accounts for 65% of global water consumption?

Answer: agriculture

6. How many litres of water per day does each person need in order to meet basic needs and avoid health issues?

Answer: 50-100 litres per day, according to the World Health Organization. Around 4 billion people endure water scarcity for at least one month per year.^v

7. What is the average distance women in Asia and Africa need to walk to collect water?

Answer: 6 kilometres^{vi}

8. What disease is caused by drinking unclean water?

Answer: cholera

9. Is water a human right or a commodity?

Answer: On 28 July 2010 the United Nations General Assembly through Resolution A/RES/64/292 declared safe and clean drinking water and sanitation a human right essential to the full enjoyment of life and all other human rights. However, under some trade agreements, including NAFTA, it is still treated as a commodity.^{vii viii}

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10. How much water does the average Canadian use daily?

Answer: 275 litres of water daily: the equivalent of 4.5 baths.^{ix}

11. How many litres of water does it take to produce 1 litre of bottled water?

Answer: it takes 3 litres of water to produce 1 litre of bottled water.

12. How many First Nations communities across Canada must boil their water before drinking it, or not use their water at all, because it is unsafe?

Answer: In early 2017 there were 144 drinking water advisories in 95 First Nations communities. More than 100 water advisories are routinely in effect, with some First Nations living under advisories for nearly 20 years.^x

- i. UN-Water Decade Programme on Advocacy and Communication and Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council, www.un.org/waterforlifedecade. The Human right to water and sanitation. Media Brief. [PDF file] Retrieved from http://www.un.org/waterforlifedecade/pdf/human_right_to_water_and_sanitation_media_brief.pdf
- ii. Polaris Institute: Polaris water curriculum project, 2010-2015. www.polarisinstitute.org/education. Part #2 - Geography (Gr. 9): Water Use & Availability. Retrieved from https://d3n8a8pro7vnm.cloudfront.net/polarisinstitute/pages/87/attachments/original/1420756275/GEO_Section_I_Water_Use.pdf?1420756275
- iii. UN-Water Decade Programme on Advocacy and Communication and Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council, www.un.org/waterforlifedecade. The Human right to water and sanitation. Media Brief. [PDF file] Retrieved from http://www.un.org/waterforlifedecade/pdf/human_right_to_water_and_sanitation_media_brief.pdf
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- viii. Council of Canadians www.canadians.org; Water for Sale infographic. [PDF file] Retrieved from <https://canadians.org/sites/default/files/publications/waterforsale-infographic.pdf>
- ix. Polaris Institute: Polaris water curriculum project, 2010-2015. www.polarisinstitute.org/education. Part #2 - Geography (Gr. 9): Water Use & Availability. Retrieved from https://d3n8a8pro7vnm.cloudfront.net/polarisinstitute/pages/87/attachments/original/1420756275/GEO_Section_I_Water_Use.pdf?1420756275
- x. Lui, Emma. The Council of Canadians, April 2017. How Students and Teachers can take action for clean water in First Nations. Retrieved from <https://canadians.org/blog/how-students-and-teachers-can-take-action-clean-water-first-nations>

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USEFUL RESOURCES FOR FACILITATORS //

1. Lui, Emma. The Council of Canadians, April 2017. How Students and Teachers can take action for clean water in First Nations. Website: <https://canadians.org/blog/how-students-and-teachers-can-take-action-clean-water-first-nations>
2. Council of Canadians www.canadians.org; Water for Sale infographic. <https://canadians.org/sites/default/files/publications/waterforsale-infographic.pdf>
3. UN-Water Decade Programme on Advocacy and Communication and Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council, www.un.org/waterforlifedecade. The Human right to water and sanitation. Media Brief. http://www.un.org/waterforlifedecade/pdf/human_right_to_water_and_sanitation_media_brief.pdf
4. Council of Canadians www.canadians.org; Water for Sale infographic. <https://canadians.org/sites/default/files/publications/waterforsale-infographic.pdf>

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ANSWERS

to print and cut out

A poor household in Jakarta, Indonesia	Agriculture	275 litres
Polar ice caps/ glaciers	50 to 100 litres per day	5 litres per day
884 million people	A human right	6 kilometres
3 Litres	95	Cholera

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BINGO CARD

to print and cut out
