

This global bite helps us to contrast vividly our own consumption of water with that in the poorer regions of developing countries. It could form part of a whole session on water, with everyone calculating how much water they use and seeing what strategies they can use to reduce the quantity. In a drop-in situation people rarely actually do the calculation but begin to think about how much water they use and are struck by the comparison with someone in, for example, rural sub-Saharan Africa.

This bite goes well near a refreshment tent at a fair or fête, alongside a tip tap for real handwashing and to attract attention.

Ingredients:

Use GLADE's "Water Calculator" (part of GLADE's Water Topic Box – see GLADE Resources at www.glade.org) or make your own using information from <http://www.livingandlearningwithwater.com/teachersarea/waterconservation/swf/calculator.swf> , This shows how much water we use in UK for all the usual purposes of daily living. (This web version includes an in-built calculator too. If internet facilities are available you could use this to do the calculations)

- Water calculator
- blackboard and chalk for calculation
- electronic calculator
- 2 or 3 buckets
- 3 or 4 empty plastic litre milk bottles
- information about water consumption in other areas of the world.
- Pictures of wells, water pumps, people carrying water etc, to attract attention, and/or have a tip-tap set up nearby for real handwashing. Include pictures which counteract stereotyping of all Africa as "poor villages with mud huts".



Method: length of time **5 mins**

Age range: 9 up & families

- Use the tip tap or other strategy to attract attention
- Encourage "customer" to guess how much water they use for a shower.
- Discuss the answer, using the buckets and bottles to show how much water this really is, and how heavy it is.
- Discuss strategies for reducing usage; if necessary use buckets and bottles to help to guesstimate amounts.
- Explain that average water usage in the Gambia is about 15 litres per day.
- Make sure that the person has a handout from you to take away.

Global issues raised: Poverty; Millennium Development Goals; human rights; global health; role of women in their communities; environmental degradation.

Additional resources: Use with the rest of GLADE's Water Topic Box.

Where to use this global bite: at fêtes and fairs. At camp. As a more extended activity at holiday schemes.

Variations on the theme: Use with the tip-tap and the water game for a more extended activity especially in a family context.