

SLIDE 1: Today is an important day. Today people all around the world are talking about and thinking about something very important – that all of us use every single day. Let’s see if you can solve the riddle and work out what it is we will be learning about today

(The sentences are animated – reveal one at a time. You could ask an older child who knows to explain the meaning of ‘essential’ to everyone. Stop at What Am I?) (You could be drinking from a reusable bottle of water whilst waiting for responses)

SLIDE 2: Today is World Water Day. Every year, on the 22nd March, people around the world are asked to think about water. I wonder why? When you had a drink this morning or brushed your teeth did you look at the water and think about it? Many of us don’t. We just turn on our taps and the water comes out. We don’t often stop and think about it.

We use water for drinking and for brushing our teeth. How else do we use water at home? Who can give me some ideas?

SLIDE 3: Draw out any that weren’t mentioned by the children

SLIDE 4: There is even water hiding in our homes. Did you know that? Water makes your fridge work, keeps your radiators warm if you use them, and is in our food. We use more water in the world for growing and producing food, than for anything else – So as you can see water is vital and important to everyone’s lives.

So why do you think we have a world water day? Why might we talk about water and think about water today? (Emphasise that it’s WORLD water day – click for animation - answers will vary but hopefully you will get to: because sometimes we waste water or because not everyone in the world has taps/water, or because water is important to everyone around the world, or we can’t survive without water.)

SLIDE 5: Let's zoom out a minute and take a look at our planet. A lot of the water we have on earth is water that we cannot use for drinking or cooking, and farmers cannot use it for growing vegetables or feeding animals. Why is it that?

Where is most of the water on earth? (Click to reveal answer: in the oceans – saline water that we cannot use, or locked up in ice in glaciers and at the poles). Only a small amount of water on earth (1%) is fresh water.

Who needs this water? (Answer – every single person in the world and many of the plants and animals that we share it with). That's right but some people find it easier to get water than others.

SLIDE 6: Many people in the world cannot get water as easily as we can. They might not have taps in their houses, they might not have a well to collect water, they might have a river close by but the water might be dirty.

SLIDE 7: Here in Somalia, in East Africa, it can be hard to get water. We are going to hear a story from near Hargeysa (also Hargeisa) in Somaliland which is in the north of Somalia (indicate on map).

SLIDE 8: This lady is called Badria. She lives in East Africa (Somaliland). Here it doesn't rain for several months of the year. When we have too much rain, we might see puddles and rivers overflowing – we call this flooding. What do we call it when we don't have enough rain? There's a word for it – it's dry, the ground becomes hard and if this goes on for a long time, we call it a drought.

Here, where Badria lives, there have been many years when there hasn't been enough rain and so there isn't enough water in the rivers and underground. There isn't enough water for Badria and her children to drink. What do you think that it might be like, not to be able to get water easily?

SLIDE 9: One of the problems that happens everywhere in the world, is that water is wasted. Have you ever left the tap running whilst brushing your teeth? Or have you ever filled up your bath with water, when you actually only need a small amount for a wash?

SLIDE 10: It's not just us who wastes water. Who knows how water gets into taps in our kitchens and our bathrooms? CLICK - It comes to us through pipes buried under the ground. Sometimes the pipes break or get cracks in them and so the water spills out underground and doesn't get to our taps. This happens everywhere.

In many places, people will fix the pipes if there is a leak. But in some places the people looking after the water don't fix the pipes. In the UK a fifth of all piped water is wasted before it even gets to our houses (1 in 5 or 20 in a 100). So water can be wasted in lots of ways.

SLIDE 11: When you hear about people like Badria, who find it hard to get water, when you think about the water that is wasted everyday. How do you feel? What questions come to mind?

SLIDE 12: In our lessons today, we (or some of us) will be thinking about some of these questions. We will also be thinking about what people are doing to try and make things better and what we can do to help. The theme for World water day this year is Water for Peace. Look at the logo. As you make your way back to class, think about this word peace and what it means to you. Listen to the music.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fzPjkG3akrc&list=PLug1maEKaeSkV8RteyNOUkK72fvk3Yizm&index=8>

[play the song but obscure video]