



WAVEMAKER CURRICULUM

DRINK LOCAL DRINK TAP (DLDT) is a nonprofit organization that inspires individuals to recognize and solve our water issues through creative education, events, and providing safe-water access to people in need. The lesson plans we've developed highlight our core mission by:

- Inspiring action through educational projects and programs.
- Activating you and your community by volunteering, fundraising, and hosting/participating in water-focused events and activities.
- Highlighting work with Ugandans to build safe, sustainable water sources in rural communities and refugee settlements.

WELCOME TO OUR WATER FOOTPRINT UNIT!

This unit teaches students that we all have environmental and water footprints, and it is up to us to take responsibility for their impact.

WHAT'S COVERED?

The lessons in this unit:

- Explore human roles in creating and solving environmental problems related to lifestyle choices, such as the products we buy, particularly plastics, and the food we eat.
- Emphasize ways to approach solutions through sustainability concepts and environmentally-friendly decisions.

Topics include: carbon and water footprints, sustainable food choices, the lifecycle of objects, plastic pollution.

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS FOR THE UNIT:

How does my impact on the world affect me and other people and places?
How can I take responsibility for my impact?"

THROUGH THESE LESSONS, STUDENTS WILL UNDERSTAND:

- Their actions have an environmental impact
- How their choices are reflected through their carbon and water footprints
- How to reduce their ecological footprints and make more sustainable decisions
- What single-use plastic items are and alternatives for them
- The environmental impact of food choices, related to plant-based vs. meat-based meals
- The 7 R's and how to integrate them in their lives

THE 5 LESSONS:

THE FIVE LESSONS IN THIS UNIT CAN BE TAUGHT AS A COMPLETE SET OR INDIVIDUALLY.

What's My Eco Footprint?

Students consider their water and carbon footprints and create a diagram to reflect on their current habits and the changes they can make to decrease their impact on the Earth.

Herbivore vs. Omnivore Diet

Students learn about the difference between plant-based and meat-based diets, and how the foods they choose to eat impact the environment.

Do You Know the 7 R's

Students review the three R's (reduce, reuse, recycle) and discuss why we need four more R's (refuse, repurpose, repair, rot). They generate different ways to practice the 7 R's.

Break the Plastic Habit

Students consider how they use plastic each day and their behavior's impact on the environment. They leave the lesson with practical solutions and ideas to reduce their daily use of plastic and are challenged to help others reduce their own plastic use.

Microplastics: Tiny Trouble

Students research microplastics and their environmental impact, while considering positive actions they can take for the Earth.



ABOUT THESE LESSONS:

Standards: These lessons are aligned to: Next Generation Science Standards, National Council of the Social Studies, Common Core State Standards for English Language Art and Literacy, Framework for 21st Century Learning, Climate Literacy Principles, and Water Literacy Principles. See the Overview Matrix for a listing of lessons and the standards to which they are aligned.

Timing: The suggested lesson duration included in the lessons can be used as a guide for how long they should take, as each classroom is different. Depending on the size and length of each class, these lessons can be taught in one sitting or over a few days.

Content: Many of the topics in these lessons can evoke an emotional response from students. Modify the lessons as needed to ensure they are appropriate for your students. Anticipate the questions and responses these discussions and activities may elicit.

SUPPORTIVE READING BOOK LIST :

Please refer to our book list for supportive reading options.

WEBSITE SUGGESTIONS

<https://www.encyclopedia.com/environment/energy-government-and-defense-magazines/carbon-footprint>

<http://www.takepart.com/flashcards/what-is-a-carbon-footprint/index.html>

<http://www.plasticfreechallenge.org/what-is-single-use-plastic>

<http://www.marinesafe.org/the-problem/single-use-plastic/>

<https://oceanservice.noaa.gov/facts/microplastics.html>

<https://recyclingpartnership.org/recycling-101/>

<https://www.vegsoc.org/info-hub/why-go-veggie/environment/>