



Maggie's Activity Pack

Name _____

Clothes and Clean Water

Some people do not have clean water.
The water can make them sick.
Dr. Colwell found a way to help these people.
She saw the women wore clothing called a sari.
She told them to fold this eight times.
This helped make the water better.
The people did not get as sick.
People need clean water.



What did Dr. Colwell find out about a sari?

How many times should you fold a sari?

Dear Colleague,

For some of our students, the problem of clean water may be an unfamiliar worry. They do not realize that many children around the world need to travel long distances to find water and that this water may not be clean. I have seen children scooping drinking water from a brown river. I have witnessed children leaving school to pump water from an outside well. I have watched as children rolled in water next to resting cattle, mouths open, gulping the water they shared with these animals. Clean water is not readily available and sometimes not even understood in many parts of the world. Adequate sewage facilities can be one of the reasons female students stop attending school around 12 years of age. Clearly this is an issue we should integrate into our existing curriculum.

“But how do we have time to do this?” This is a question I know many teachers ask, especially in our current climate of needing to align all we do to “the standards.” I believe water issues are a natural fit with these standards and can be a way to engage, motivate, and develop critical thinking skills. Please see our Dear Colleague letter attached to the companion primary or intermediate WAPs for more details.

One of my favorite activities is to have children think about the many, and seemingly infinite ways, water is important to life on Earth. I send them to the art center, which usually in my room is an easel with lots of colorful pigment choices (by the way, have you seen the no-spill Chenille Kraft paint jars available at Amazon? I loved these no-mess, no-fuss paint containers!). Here the children paint a scene showing water, whether it be drinking water, water for recreation, water to support life in the rain forest or Antarctica, etc. Then I take a digital photo of the child, use the “cut” tool in the photo editing program and the child has digitally “hopped” into their painting a la Mary Poppins!

If you are studying the water cycle or water’s many roles on Earth, I suggest *A Drop Around the World* by Barbara Shaw McKinney. To help children understand their power to change the life of another, share *Ryan and Jimmy: And the Well in Africa That Brought Them Together* by Herb Shoveller. I love these two books!

Happy reading and happy teaching,
Kathy

Answer Key: (See Intermediate version, “Women in Science, Dr. Rita Colwell: Turning Old Clothes Into New Hope” for more information. These answers are based on the Emergent level reading vocabulary.

Dr. Colwell found a way to help keep water clean.

You need to fold a sari eight times.

Goals:

Children will read a level-appropriate text about Dr. Rita Colwell who found that folding a sari eight times reduces the cholera infection rates in communities that lack clean water. A follow-up activity requires children use the scientific facts to answer questions. The Dear Colleague offers additional follow-up activities, art ideas, and suggested children’s books. Companion primary and intermediate WAPs are available. These correlate with Content Standard G, History and Nature of Science, Science as a Human Endeavor of the National Science Standards.