

## CLASSROOM ACTIVITY

# World Water Day Gallery of Art (SDG 6)

### OBJECTIVES

Students will be able to

1. **Identify** sustainable development goals that address the global water crisis.
2. **Create** a piece of art that raises awareness of the purpose of World Water Day.

### OVERVIEW

Students will explore the World Water Day theme “Accelerating Change” by finding connections to the United Nation’s sustainable development goals. Students will create an original piece of art addressing a global challenge we face related to water, including poverty, inequality, climate change, infrastructure, and sustainability. Each artist will develop an exhibit label with the title of their piece stating why their topic is relevant to our lives.

### GRADES

6–9

### NATIONAL STANDARDS

Next Generation Science Standards

- **Human Sustainability:** Design, evaluate, and refine a solution for reducing the impacts of human activities on the environment and biodiversity.
- **Earth’s Systems:** Construct a scientific explanation based on evidence for how the uneven distributions of Earth’s mineral, energy, and groundwater resources are the result of past and current geoscience processes.

Common State Standards for Core Language Arts

- **Reading Standards for Informational Text:** Cite the textual evidence that most strongly supports an analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.

### BACKGROUND

Have you ever wondered what happens to the water when you flush the toilet? What would you do if you turned on the faucet and nothing came out? Could you have survived the Covid-19 pandemic without clean water to wash your hands? These questions are not theoretical for many people

living throughout the world. According to the United Nations, by the year 2030, nearly one third of the world's population will be living without safely managed sewage sanitation or drinking water and 1.9 billion people will not have access to hand hygiene facilities. These are just a few examples of why in 1993 the United Nations began observing World Water Day on March 22<sup>nd</sup> each year. This day is meant to both celebrate water and raise awareness about the issues surrounding water stress around the globe. The focus of this year's World Water Day is "accelerating change" by bringing together governments, private industry, and activists like you. By working together, this could be the change that is needed to protect our planet's most precious resource: water.

## KEY VOCABULARY

- Sustainability
- Water stress
- Sanitation
- Infrastructure
- Defecation

## MATERIALS

- Resource—*Can You Guess the Topic Today*
- Student Resource—*Gallery of Art Planning Guide*
- Video—[SDG 6: Ambitious, but not rocket science](#)

## TEACHER PREPARATION

- Copies of the Student Resource *Gallery of Art Planning Guide*—one copy per student

## ENGAGE

1. Begin the activity by telling students that they are going to make predictions about what they will be learning about today. Using the *Can You Guess the Topic Today* resource, project and read the facts to students one at a time, allowing time between each fact for collaborative discussion about what they think the topic of study is.
2. Present the clue and ask students to refine their thinking based on new information. Allow additional time for discussion and evidence.
3. Share the images and ask students to finalize their predictions. Invite students to share their responses before revealing that the topic is World Water Day.

## EXPLAIN

4. Tell your with students that a core focus of World Water Day is to inspire action towards the U.N.'s Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6: water and sanitation for all by 2030.
5. Ask students to share what they know about the sustainable development goals. Do they know how many goals were adopted? Introduce the website [THE 17 GOALS | Sustainable Development](#), and have students work with an elbow partner to create a list of goals that could be connected to World Water Day. Invite students to share why they selected the goals on their list.

6. Introduce the video segment [Ambitious, but not rocket science](#). Have students consider the following: We live in an era of technological miracles like 3D printing and artificial intelligence. How is it possible that we cannot ensure that all humans have access to clean water and sanitation?
7. While students watch the video, have them record three interesting facts they learned, two reasons this topic is important to their lives, and one main idea they would share with a peer who has not seen the video.

## CHALLENGE

8. Share that water and sanitation do not get the attention they deserve even though they touch people's lives every day. To raise awareness and bring attention to this important crisis, you will create an original piece of art that could promote universal access to safe water, improved sanitation, protection of water resources, or the sustainable use of water.
9. Students can work individually or with a partner to complete this challenge. Distribute the *World Water Day—Gallery of Art Planning Guide* to students. You could assign one of the eight sustainable development goals or allow students to select a goal that resonates with them. A unique piece of art should be created for each goal.
  - Goal 3—health and well-being
  - Goal 5—gender equality
  - Goal 6—clean water and sanitation
  - Goal 9—industry, innovation, infrastructure
  - Goal 10—reduce inequalities
  - Goal 11—sustainable cities and communities
  - Goal 12—responsible consumption and production
  - Goal 13—climate action
10. Students will conduct research to gain an understanding of their goal and how it relates to World Water Day. Using this research, they will determine the type of original art they will create for the collection. Students may need many days to create and refine their piece before it is ready to be displayed or exhibited in the gallery.
11. Each artist will develop an exhibit label with the title of their creation and one important fact they learned through this activity to raise awareness of their topic.

## EXTENSION

As an extension of this activity, the gallery of art can be displayed in the school cafeteria or gymnasium where teachers across grade levels could take their students to view. Encourage other teachers to help their class develop questions about clean water and sanitation.

### Sources:

- [Can You Guess My 2-1-4?](#)
- [2030- SDG 6—Clean Water and Sanitation—Ted talks](#)
- [World Water Day](#)
- [THE 17 GOALS | Sustainable Development](#)

## CAN YOU GUESS THE TOPIC TODAY?

Below are two facts, one clue, and four images. Use this information to predict the upcoming topic we will be studying.

### Two Facts

1. More than 733 million people live in countries with high and critical levels of water stress.
2. At least 2 billion people are currently living without access to safe water.

### One Clue

1. It is an annual United Nations observance that started in 1993 and is celebrated on March 22 every year.

### Four Images



1. Identify and describe the sustainable development goal that your art will represent.

2. Begin your research by using [THE 17 GOALS | Sustainable Development](#) website to gather some information on your topic. Record main ideas and statistics that will help you generate ideas for your art.

3. What type of original art will you create? Here are some ideas to help you start: painting, digital art, sculpture, photography, poem, song, short video documentary.

4. Create an exhibit label with the title of your piece and share one important fact to raise awareness of your topic. You can draft the label below.