



Action Plan

Time Frame: 60 minutes minimum

Objective: Giving students the opportunity to become aware of how their actions and participation can affect their community in a positive manner. They can use the skills and ideas learned in any of the Safe Drinking Water Foundation's educational programs to formulate an action plan with the hopes that upon completion they will have become more aware of the importance of safe drinking water, and its implications in terms of the environment. Operation Water Flow (Social Studies, Science), Operation Community Water Footprint (Math, Science), Operation Water Health (Health, Language Arts, Science, Social Studies) and Operation Water Spirit (Native Studies, Language Arts, Physical Education) are available free of charge online at www.safewater.org. Operation Water Drop, Operation Water Biology and Operation Water Pollution kits can be purchased for a cost-recovery fee. Please contact Safe Drinking Water Foundation at 1-306-934-0389 or info@safewater.org for more information.

Topic: Develop a strategic plan of action to protect and ensure safe drinking water for your community, and for ALL Canadians! The Action Plan can include any of the following:

- What can I do, individually, to help conserve our community's drinking water supply?
- What can be done to protect source water?
- What activities impact our community's drinking water supply, both negatively and positively?
- Should we make a presentation to local community leaders to share what we have learned through the Safe Drinking Water Foundation's educational programs?
- How can media help in this situation?
- What can our Member of Parliament or Legislative Assembly do to improve this situation?



- Even if our community's drinking water met all of the guidelines and regulations for all of the components for which we tested the water, it is very unlikely that the water tests in many other communities had the same results. How can we make safe drinking water accessible to ALL Canadians? Are appropriate treatment processes and safeguards in place in your community? How do you know?
- What is the meaning of "Due Diligence"?

Suggested Outline:

- Divide students into groups, you might divide them into the following groups:
 - Urban, rural, and First Nations water supplies
 - Local community, provincial, and national responsibilities for drinking water
 - Conservation, protection and privatization (corporate or government)
 - Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality, United States Environmental Protection Agency Drinking Water Regulations, and the European Drinking Water Directive
 - Source water protection advocates, industry representatives, and citizens.

Suggested Activities:

- **Posters:** Have students design a poster to demonstrate the actions communities or individuals can take to protect their water supplies. Compare the posters from each group, as each strategy should be different. If possible, display the posters in a place where members of the community will have an opportunity to view them.
- **Peer teaching:** Have each group teach the rest of the class about their water supply and how individuals and the community can work together to protect it. Operation Water Spirit has lessons in grade five and grade seven which encourage students to interact with different age levels and the community at large.



- **Write a letter:** Express your concern or satisfaction to a local or provincial newspaper, politician, or a water provider.
- **For additional ideas, please refer to the Safe Drinking Water Foundation website at www.safewater.org**

Community Education/Research Project

Have each group teach the rest of the class, younger grade students, and/or the community about their water supply and how the community can work together to protect it.

Have each group research a different water related topic. Possible topics include:

- **Waterborne diseases:** Which ones are reportable? How do doctors recognize them? How are the statistics recorded? Etc.
- **Legalities surrounding safe drinking water in Canada compared to the United States and compared to Europe.**
- **Boil Water Advisories:** What is a Boil Water Advisory (BWA)? Who is responsible for issuing a BWA? What is the process that needs take place for a BWA to be rescinded?
- **Testing:** How often are tests of drinking water performed? How is the water tested? What do the results of the different tests mean?
- **What realities exist in some First Nations communities in terms of their water? What is the situation in rural communities?**
- **What are some current issues and concerns regarding drinking water which citizens express (fluoridation, fracking, Trihalomethanes, pharmaceuticals, etc.)? What are the different viewpoints on these issues?**

We, at the Safe Drinking Water Foundation, would greatly appreciate receiving any pictures, posters, brochures, etc. which your students create. Please feel free to send us digital files at info@safewater.org or mail us brochures, posters, etc. at #1-912 Idylwyld Drive North, Saskatoon, SK S7L 0Z6. Also, you can call us (1-306-934-0389) or e-mail us (info@safewater.org) to chat about your project, get additional help or ideas, and find out about potential funding for your project.