

A Water Disaster

Focus

An emergency scenario asks students to apply what they have learnt to problem solve and come to decisions that would impact directly on their community's use of water. Eg. A disaster has occurred in your community and your local water supply is rationed. Water is only available to you in the mornings or afternoons.

Materials

- Task card with the scenario for discussion and outline of task.
- Background Information - See suggestions from Bush Fire 2001 - Solutions to challenges.

Procedure

- Students will need to be in groups and have access to materials for group work.
- Put the scenario to the students. Eg. A disaster has occurred in your community and your local water supply is rationed. Water is only available to you in the mornings or afternoons.
- Q How will you cope with this situation at your house? Use any ideas and data that you have learned during this unit to write your plan.
- Discuss the solutions to your problem if this situation happens for a day, one day a week, continues to happen regularly during the week or continues for a long period of time.
- Q What do you think are the major issues for your family and for the community in general – what is the effect on the economy, lifestyle, health of people in your community.
- Class holds small group discussions using the 6 Thinking Hats strategy to list challenges and find solutions.

Question starters

- Q What do you see as the main problems?
- Q Who will be the most effected? Consider all factors/people involved.
- Q What about industry, shops, hospitals?
- Q What changes or coping strategies would you recommend? Why? Are they realistic? Are they cost effective?
- Q How would you prioritise usage of water? Who should decide this in the event of a real disaster?
- Q How would you control community panic?
- Q How would you monitor how things were going?
- Q What experts would need to be involved in managing this disaster and why would you choose these people?
- Class writes a news report highlighting the crisis and identifying coping strategies for themselves personally and for the community.