**Water Security in B.C.**

In this lesson you will learn about the effects of environmental racism on water security in the lives of many Indigenous peoples in B.C.. In B.C., as in many areas of the world, there is a misperception that we have access to all the clean water we could need (Oberman & Martinez Sainz, 2021). Although long-term (more than one year) water advisories have been very recently ended in B.C., there are still many short-term (less than one year) water issues still to be dealt with in Indigenous communities. In fact, there are currently communities in B.C. that have been without clean tap water for almost 100 days (still “short-term”) (FNHA*,* 2023). Can you imagine having to live for 100 days without access to clean tap water in your home? This is a reality for many Indigenous peoples living in B.C.. Learn more about the water crisis in B.C. by working through the steps below.

**(Suggested Grade Range: Elementary School: 5 to 7 - May be adapted for other grades by substituting videos or reading materials more suited to the age and abilities of your students. Activities can also be adapted, with students writing responses in journals or on your current LMS.) Created by: Carina Losito**

| **Map-Marker-Flag-3-Right-Pink-icon.png** | **Engage** |
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| Start by watching the video [here](https://youtu.be/BGW77n-HGHY) about water and Cowichan Tribes near Duncan, B.C.. Then discover more about the Cowichan people [here](https://cowichantribes.com/about-cowichan-tribes/history) and their history.   * What are some things you wonder about after watching the video and learning about the Cowichan people? * What surprised you? * What connections do you have between what you just learned and the previous lesson on water security in Canada? |

| **images** | **Explore** |
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| The First Nations Health Authority took over much responsibility for environmental health programs and services in B.C. from Health Canada (which continues in this capacity in other provinces and territories in Canada). This was a move toward Indigenous peoples in B.C. having more governance over their own health and services system. Using the links below, find out all you can about the continuing water crisis in Indigenous communities in B.C. and the role of the FNHA moving forward.  While you explore, read, and discover, think about these questions:   * As mentioned in the AquaHacking video, many communities come off of a long-term water advisory only to end up on a short-term advisory again (Terbasket & Alexis, 2019, October 29). Why does access to clean water for Indigenous people in B.C. continue to be in crisis? * What is making water unsafe for consumption in many First Nations communities in B.C.? * What happened in Lytton to make water accessible again? * What needs to happen to make water accessible to all people in B.C.?   **Links:**   * [**AquaHacking B.C.**](https://youtu.be/yggimhOxdqU) * [**First Nations Health Authority**](https://www.fnha.ca/Documents/Drinking-Water-Advisory-Monthly-Summary.pdf) * [**About Water Advisories**](https://www.fnha.ca/what-we-do/environmental-health/drinking-water-advisories) * [**First Nations in B.C. Without Tap Water (2021)**](https://vancouversun.com/news/eleven-first-nation-communities-in-b-c-still-cant-drink-their-tap-water) * [**Lytton First Nation Boil Water Advisory**](https://globalreportingcentre.org/lytton-water/) * [**Lytton solution to water crisis**](https://www.cbc.ca/news/indigenous/lytton-first-nation-water-system-fixing-1.4036018) |

| **images** | **Explain** |
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| Read about the role of water in the lives of First Nations people in Canada [here](https://www.afn.ca/honoring-water/). It gives you a glimpse into the meaning and importance of water within Indigenous perspectives and worldviews. We often think of the importance of water for drinking and washing, but we don’t always recognize the role water can play in another culture’s spiritual beliefs and traditional activities.  Activity: Write down some learnings, thoughts, and questions that occurred to you as you watched the video, and share them in a short post [here](https://padlet.com/carinalosito/water-indigenous-peoples-of-canada-uu3cyksbs88qqk5u) under the topic “Importance of water”. Check out other people’s posts to see if you share any thoughts or if they have any interesting ideas you didn’t think of or questions you have answers for. |

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| Activity: Now that you have had a chance to learn about water crises in Indigenous communities in B.C., give the activities below a try:   * Think about the videos you watched about the Cowichan and Lytton First Nations peoples. Now that you understand a little more about the importance of water in the lives of Indigenous people in B.C., reflect on how long they were without water and the effect that must have had on their lives. * Imagine you were asked to explain to your peers how the lack of clean water for so many years must have changed the lives of the people you just learned about.   Create a short video or podcast episode on what you have learned about the effects of the water crisis on First Peoples in B.C. and what people are doing (or can do) to help. |

|  | **Share** |
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| Visit the flip page [here](https://flip.com/956928c9) and upload the video/podcast you created in the “Apply” step.  Now, watch some of the other videos that have been posted, and share something interesting or comment on each other’s videos. Remember to always be respectful. |

| **images** | **Reflect** |
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| Take a moment to reflect on the following questions:  What have you learned about water security for Indigenous peoples in B.C.? How did you apply what you have learned to creating and sharing information with others in your video? What more do you hope to learn about the water crisis in B.C.?  Share your reflections [here](https://padlet.com/carinalosito/water-indigenous-peoples-of-canada-uu3cyksbs88qqk5u), and make sure to add your post under the “Reflections” topic so others know what you are talking about. Take a moment to read through other posts in the “Reflection” section and see if anyone else had a similar experience.  To assess your own learning, make sure you complete your own [self assessment](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1GSbXyN0MnfvhOJNMgBViY0fLZqsyMQCr-vTTEj9zHLM/preview). |

| **images** | **Extend** |
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| Extend your learning and share on the Padlet [here](https://padlet.com/carinalosito/water-indigenous-peoples-of-canada-uu3cyksbs88qqk5u), and feel free to comment with positive or constructive feedback on other people’s posts.  Share ideas you have for how you can learn more and use your knowledge to teach others about the water security crisis for marginalized groups in B.C. and Canada.  Brainstorm some ideas about how you can learn more about marginalized people around the world who are in similar water security crises. |

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