**Water Security in Canada**

In this lesson, you will learn about the effects of environmental racism on water security in the lives of many Indigenous peoples in Canada. Water security refers to sustainable access to an acceptable quality and quantity of water to maintain the health and well-being of a population. In these modern times and living in an affluent country, a person might believe that water insecurity doesn’t exist here. Unfortunately, many marginalized groups, such as Indigenous peoples in Canada, do not have access to clean, safe water at all. In fact, the water running from the faucets in the homes of many Indigenous peoples is very dangerous to their health. Learn more about this crisis by working through the steps below.

**(Suggested Grade Range: Elementary School: Grades 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/G244Q4AGJ7U) about when water is safe to drink & what might cause it to not be safe. Then watch this video [here](https://youtu.be/A33XRMLBbOc) about clean water activist Autumn Peltier.   * What are some things you wonder about after watching the videos? What surprised you? * Have you ever not had access to clean tap water (drinkable & clean enough to wash with)? * Can you recall ever hearing anything in the news about boil water advisories? * What did you hear in Autumn’s message that made you understand the importance of this issue? |

| **images** | **Explore** |
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| Using the links below, find out all you can about the water crisis in Indigenous communities in Canada. While you explore, read, and discover, think about these questions:   * What is a boil water advisory (and other types of advisory) and why is this in place (often for years) in many Indigenous communities in Canada? * What has made the water unsafe in many areas across Canada for Indigenous peoples? * What are some effects of the lack of access to clean water in the lives of Indigenous peoples?   **Links:**   * [**The Water Crisis in Canada**](https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/52a5610cca604175b8fb35bccf165f96) * [**Water Advisories in Canada**](https://www.sac-isc.gc.ca/eng/1538160229321/1538160276874#a1) |

| **images** | **Explain** |
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| Watch [this video](https://youtu.be/ibWLCYknpNc) next. It will give you a quick overview of the history leading up to the water crises for the Indigenous peoples of Canada.   * As future innovators, educators, and leaders of our country, it’s important that you learn about the connection between the science of environmental issues and the social (people) side of these issues. Every decision we make as a society involving climate action, resource use and distribution, participation in consumer culture, and more, affects not only the physical environment, but most of all those who are marginalized in our country and world (Oberman & Martinez Sainz, 2021). Use your critical thinking skills and reflect on everything you have learned so far.   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 correct heading. 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. |

| **images** | **Apply** |
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| Activity: Now that you have had a chance to learn about water security and the water crisis existing in many Indigenous communities in Canada, give the activities below a try:   * Think about the video you watched about Autumn Peltier. She teaches many people about the importance of water security and the water crisis in Indigenous communities. Imagine you were asked to give a short presentation to teach other students about the water crisis. * Write a short speech or create a brief slideshow to explain what you’ve learned about:   + - What can cause water to be unusable in communities across Canada     - Why many Indigenous communities are facing water crises in Canada     - How the lack of clean water has affected Indigenous peoples living in these areas. |

|  | **Share** |
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| Visit the flip page [here](https://flip.com/956928c9), and make a short (1 - 2 minute) video of the speech or slideshow you created in the “Apply” step. (To record your slideshow, click “Add to Topic”, then click the ellipses, or three dots, and choose “Record Screen”.)  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 your learning:   * What have you learned about water security for Indigenous peoples of Canada? * 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 Canada?   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 writing about. Take a moment to read through other posts in the “Reflection” section and see if anyone else had a similar thought or one that hadn’t occurred to you yet.  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 about this topic 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 new understanding to help others learn about water security for Indigenous peoples and other groups experiencing water crises. |

References:

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Oberman, R., & Martinez Sainz, G. (2021). Critical thinking, critical pedagogy and climate change education [Ebook]. In *Teaching for Social Justice and Sustainable Development Across the Primary Curriculum* (1st ed., pp. 69–83). Routledge. https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003003021