

Preparatory science: Water is precious

Australian Curriculum links: Foundation Science

Living things have basic needs, including food and water (ACSSU002)

Sustainability cross-curriculum

In this activity, students are introduced to the concepts of everyday water use and water conservation. They discover the importance of water through story and discussion.

Equipment

For the class

- a box wrapped in blue paper to look like a very special gift, containing a bottle of water (preferably a reusable bottle), a letter and card from Whizzy (Resource 1 and 2) attached to the outside of the box resting on blue tissue paper
- Whizzy's messages 1 and 2
- coloured cardboard cut-outs of clouds
- markers
- [Whizzy's Incredible Journeys](#) pick-a-path book

For each student

- coloured pencils

Preparation

'Whizzy' is a waterdrop, an imaginary character from the book 'Whizzy's incredible journeys'. This lesson will work best if students haven't met Whizzy yet, so students can engage with Whizzy and Whizzy's message about how special water is.

Prepare Whizzy's gift box. Inside the box, place the bottle of water and cloud with a water message (Whizzy's message 1). Attach Whizzy's letter and card (Resources 1 and 2) to the outside of the box.

Consider the timing of the lesson. Try to schedule it after a break or first thing in the morning so that you can come into the room with the students and 'find' the box. This will help to build interest and excitement.



Figure 1 Whizzy's gift box

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Activity steps

Session 1—Finding the gift

1. Before the students arrive, place the gift in an obvious area in the classroom where the students can 'find' it.
2. Handle the gift carefully, as if it were a great treasure.
3. Lead a discussion with students about the gift. Ask them questions like, 'Who do you think that it is from? Why do you think they would leave a gift here? I wonder why they chose such beautiful, blue paper? How could we find out who left it here?'
4. Read the card (or ask a student to read it) to the class. Say to students, 'I wonder why Whizzy chose to give us this gift?'

Session 2—Opening the gift

1. Open the box and take out the bottle of water. Congratulate students who already guessed that Whizzy's gift would be water.
2. Hold up the water bottle and ask students to discuss what they already know about water. Lead them to think about water use and water conservation – write their ideas on the board.
3. Take out 'Whizzy's water message 1'. This is your first key concept. Discuss with students that we are going on a learning journey with Whizzy and it is important to find a way to record and track what we are learning. Collaborate with the students to come up with the idea that special water messages and ideas will be kept on display wall under a 'Water' heading. Ask them where water is found. Discuss things we use water for and why we need water every day. The most important thing we need water for is drinking so we can stay hydrated and healthy.
4. Take out 'Whizzy's water message 2' and discuss with students. Ask students how they use water responsibly and write their ideas about water conservation on pre-prepared 'cloud' cut-outs of coloured cardboard. Students can decorate the words with water-themed drawings like water drops, rainbows etc.
5. Tell students that Whizzy's gift has given you a great idea. Together, you are going to investigate why water is important.
6. Summarise students' ideas about what water is used for, the living things that need water to live (people, animals, plants) and how we can use our water wisely. Students aren't expected to know all of the answers at this stage. Rather, time is taken to elicit their ideas and get their minds actively thinking about the water around them.
7. Write new ideas on the display wall.
8. Finish the lesson with 'Whizzy's incredible journeys' book. Follow the family path to see Whizzy's journey. Discuss the water uses in the family story. Write any you may have missed on the display wall.

Resource 1 Whizzy's letter

...✧ Whizzy's letter and card

Teacher to handwrite this message inside card:

Hi there (class name),

Sorry I couldn't stay and give you this present personally, but I had to fly back to that little cloud up there with my friends. I really wanted to give you this present. It is very, very, very precious. Whatever you do, please take good care of it and don't waste it! It is one of the most amazing things on this Earth. Without it we could not live. Actually without it, plants and animals could not live either.

I wanted to give you this little present and invite you to come on a learning journey with me to find out all about this special gift. It will be lots of fun. Would you like to come?

We'll talk soon.

Love

Whizzy

Resource 2 Whizzy's card

