



Teacher's Guide

Cleaning Polluted Water: Pumped Up For Peace **Planet H₂O**

Grade Levels:

Intermediate
Junior High

Subject Areas:

Environmental Education
Social Studies

Synopsis:

Beginning with the concept of the butterfly effect, this program stresses that we are all responsible for protecting the environment of our watery planet. Chronicles the fundraising projects of a group of New York City teens that enabled them to purchase a water purification system for a remote Peruvian village. The filmmaker travels to the village to film life before and after the project, detailing how the system was constructed and how village teens learned to monitor water quality. Shows how the project, with the approval of the local shaman, raised the confidence of the villagers and increased their willingness to learn about hygiene. Also interviews young teens who are confident that they can teach others how to build similar systems.

Learning Objectives: Students will:

- Understand that we are all responsible for maintaining water quality.
- Describe how simple water purification systems can be constructed.
- Understand that fund raising projects can benefit village projects in developing countries.
- Appreciate the improvement in quality of life that was possible from a small fundraising project.

Vocabulary:

Butterfly effect, toxins, contaminants, watershed, indigenous people, diarrhea, waterborne diseases, shaman, gravity flow water system

Pre-Viewing Discussion:

Have you ever been involved in a project that benefited people in a foreign country? Can you tell us about this project?

What is the number-one cause of disease in developing countries?

What is involved with purifying polluted streams where villagers get their water?

What kind of education would benefit people living in these areas and help them understand the importance of clean water?

Post-Viewing Discussion:

Why were the villagers unaware that contaminated water was causing their health problems?

What disease resulted in the death of several children each year?

How was the new system designed to purify water using relatively inexpensive materials?

What other lessons did the teenagers in the United States and Peru learn from this experience?

Further Activities:

Investigate other simple designs for water purification systems.

Visit the United Nations' school programs web site to see if there are similar villages that could benefit from a water purification project.

Find out what other agencies and individuals have sponsored water clean-up programs in developing countries.

Find out where water purification programs are being developed in North America.

Related New Dimension Media Titles:

Latin America: Thirsty Cities (series)

Water Environment (series)

Water and Life on Earth

India: Waste In Calcutta

Water as a Solvent

A Drop of Water