

Water, Water Everywhere

This activity is a great way to begin to motivate the students on this topic of water and human health. It works well for all levels of students.

Directions

1. Put up flip chart paper in four corners of the classroom with a different title on each: a) Water and Your Health, b) Drinking Water Quality, c) Groundwater, and d) Watersheds.
2. Divide the class into four groups and send each group to a different corner of the room.
3. Have each group choose a recorder for their team. Each team records in a different color.
4. Explain to the students that they will get three minutes to brainstorm and list as many facts about each topic listed. Use a bell or whistle to have the students stop and move clockwise to the next chart.
5. At the next chart, students cannot repeat any of the facts already listed, but must add new facts.
6. After about 12 minutes, the students will end up back at their original corner. Have each team read the list to the class.

Debrief Options

1. First acknowledge what the class knows as a whole prior to starting the activities on this topic.
2. How do we know what we know on this topic? Is it all facts? Perceptions? From first-hand experiences?
3. How would this activity been different if you had to come up with the list of facts for each corner by yourself? Do some people know more than others on this topic? Acknowledge the importance of teamwork and learning from one another.
4. Did your team allow everyone to give input or were some people taking over in the group? Did leaders emerge? Think about whether you are a leader or follower?

Ways to Use This Activity:

1. Keep the paper up for as long as you do activities related to water. Have students add (or change) information as their knowledge increases. It is a great visual for them of how much already know and have learned.
2. Do the activity again after many water activities and let the students compare what they knew before and after.
3. Make the topics on the flip charts relevant to the group. Any topic will work.
4. Homework can be to bring in a new fact for each corner.

What else?