

Sanitation: Lesson Plan

Topic	
<p>The World Health Organization considers facilities that hygienically separate human excrement from human contact as “improved sanitation.” According to the WHO, in 2017, only 45% of the world’s population had access to and used improved sanitation facilities. Improved sanitation facilities and proper hygiene education are essential to physical and mental health.</p>	
Possible subjects/classes	Time needed
Global Issues, Global Health, Public Health, Politics	30-45 minutes
Video link:	
https://academy4sc.org/video/sanitation-toilet-talk/	
Objective: <i>What will students know/be able to do at the end of class?</i>	
<p>Students will be able to...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Explain the requirements of classifying sanitation facilities as “improved.” ● Discuss the consequences of poor sanitation. ● Identify the areas that disproportionately face poor sanitation or practice unimproved sanitation methods. 	
Key Concepts & Vocabulary	
Infectious disease, Hygiene, Sewer system, Wastewater treatment	
Materials Needed	
Posterboard, markers, computers	
Before you watch	
<p>Turn & Talk: Discuss what the consequences and implications would be for yourself, your family, and your community if you didn’t have access to hygienic toilets and bathrooms in your homes and schools. How would you feel? What would you have to change in your life? Who would be especially affected?</p>	

While you watch

1. What are the different levels of sanitation?
2. What is poor sanitation often accompanied by?
3. What's just as important as improved sanitation facilities?

After you watch/discussion questions

1. Why do you think improved sanitation is such a widespread problem?
2. Which should be addressed first in a community: waste disposal or access to clean water and hygiene practices? Why?
3. Can you think of any setbacks, besides funding, in increasing sanitation around the world?

Activity Ideas

- **Sanitation Bill of Rights:** Have students create posters with their sanitation bill of rights. Students should include all the things they believe people should have access to with regards to sanitation. Then, have students silently walk around and examine the other posters. Debrief with a class discussion on what rights people prioritized.
- **Research:** Have the students complete the worksheet activity about India's Total Sanitation Campaign. Then, have a class discussion about the findings that were most interesting or surprising.

Sources/places to learn more

1. De los Reyes, Francis. "Sanitation is a basic human right." *Ted, Ted*, Aug. 2013, https://www.ted.com/talks/francis_de_los_reyes_sanitation_is_a_basic_human_right?language=en.
2. Regan, Helen, and Manveena Suri. "Half of India couldn't access a toilet five years ago. Modi built 110M latrines -- but will people use them." *CNN, Cable News Network*, 5 Oct. 2019, <https://www.cnn.com/2019/10/05/asia/india-modi-open-defecation-free-intl-hnk-scli/index.html>.
3. Belton, Padraig. "Why do billions of people still lack basic sanitation?" *BBC News, BBC*, <https://www.bbc.com/news/business-46289654>.
4. Black, Maggie. "Last Taboo: Opening the Door on the Global Sanitation Crisis." *Earthscan*, 2008.