DESERT DAYS

WHOLE LANGUAGE
CREATIVE THINKING

Objective: Students will brainstorm techniques and problem solving strategies in order to effectively manipulate a limited water supply.

Background Reference: Aquifers VI A & C

Subject: Social Studies, Science

Skills: Research, communication, measuring

Materials: Plastic milk jugs, large picnic jugs

Procedure: ***Note** - except for flushing there is no water in the school.

1. Students will pretend to go to school in a desert for a day or week.
2. Students must solve the problems of having a limited supply of water to use for the day's (week's) activities. They must consider and/or share what they have.
3. Brainstorm ways in which water can be kept for the class when they need it.

***Possible ideas might include --**

1. Carrying water to school in jugs.
2. Building a reservoir in the classroom (large jugs/coolers) to store excess water each day.
3. Cutting back to essential use.
4. Reducing activities or movements.
5. Bringing lunches naturally high in water content: fruit, cheese, etc.
6. Sharing with those who forget their supply for the day.

Activities:

1. Assign each student to bring into school the amount of water they think they will need for a day.
2. Go through a regular school day allowing the children to freely use their water.
3. At the end of the day have the children see how much water they have left or how much they shared with others.

Extension:

1. Studying desert/nomadic peoples and how they live and survive in arid regions.
2. Study the water/nutrition content in foods.
3. Study the physiological effects of dehydration or using polluted water.
4. View Video H2O TV from WEF

Chart: Ext. How do you value your water.