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FREE LEARNING NOTES FOR ZAMBIA

GRADE 1 · TERM 3

Science

Safe Water

Lesson notes for learners · Competence-Based Curriculum

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Water is very important for our bodies. We drink it, cook with it and keep clean with it. In this note you will learn where water comes from, how to tell clean water from dirty water, and how to make water safe.

AFTER THESE NOTES YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO

- Name sources of water around us
- Tell water that looks clean from water that looks dirty
- Say how dirty water can be made clean and safe
- Say why our bodies need water

KEY WORDS

Water source	A place where water comes from, such as a well, a river or a tap.
Safe water	Water that will not make you sick when you drink it.
Filter	To pass water through sand, cloth or a sieve to take out the dirt.
Chlorine	A medicine that is added to water to make it safe to drink.

1 Where does water come from

We find water in many places. Water comes from a well, a borehole, a river, a dam, a water tank and a tap. Rain also gives us water.

Some water is under the ground, like the water in a well. Some water is on top of the ground, like the water in a river or a dam. Rain water falls from the sky. A tap may give water from under the ground or from a river or a dam.

A dam, a stream or a well may be the only water for a whole village. We must take good care of it. We keep it clean and we do not waste it.

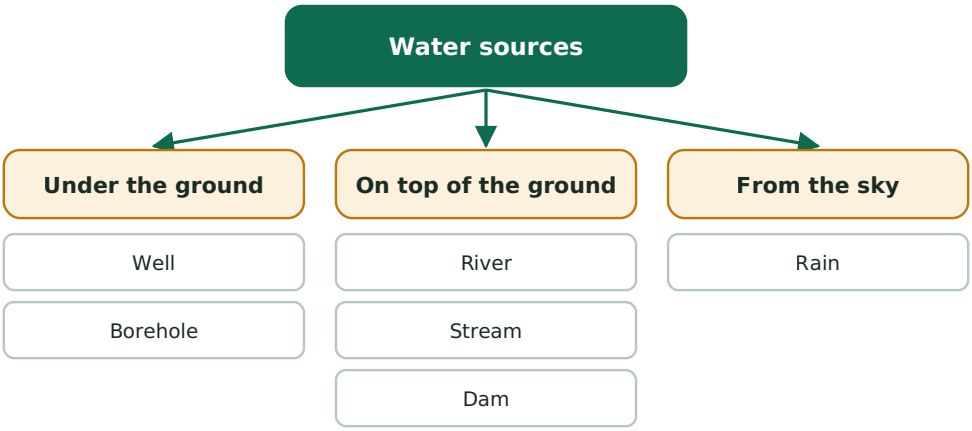

Figure 1. Where water comes from

2 Clean water and dirty water

Look at three cups of water. One has water from a tap. One has muddy water. One has soapy water. The muddy water and the soapy water look dirty. The water from the tap looks clean.

But be careful. Water can look clean and still not be safe to drink. Dirty water can have germs in it that we cannot see. These germs can make people sick with diseases like cholera, dysentery, typhoid and diarrhoea.

Dirty water happens when people do bad things near water. They throw rubbish in it or wash dirty things in it. Then the water is not safe.

3 Making water safe

We can make dirty water clean. First we filter it. We pour the water through sand, small stones, a cloth or a sieve. The dirt stays behind.

Clean looking water may still hold germs. So we must make it safe. We can add chlorine to the water. A grown-up shows us how much to add. Then the water must be covered and left for about thirty minutes. Boiling water also makes it safe, but only a grown-up must boil it.

Our bodies need safe water. Water quenches our thirst. It cools our body. It helps our body to use the food we eat.



Figure 2. How we make dirty water safe

TRY THIS

With a grown-up, look at the water you use at home. Find out where it comes from. Draw the water source and colour it. Say how your family keeps the water clean.

REMEMBER

- Water comes from wells, boreholes, rivers, dams, rain and taps
- Water that looks clean may not be safe
- We filter dirty water, then add chlorine or boil it, with a grown-up
- Our bodies need safe water
- We must take good care of our water sources

? Check yourself

1. Name three places water comes from.
2. Can water that looks clean be unsafe to drink?
3. Name one thing you can use to filter dirty water.
4. Why does our body need water?
5. Your family gets water from a river near your home. Tonight the water in the bucket is muddy. (a) Is it safe to drink now. (b) What can you pour it through to take out the dirt. (c) Who must boil it or add chlorine.

6. A girl sees a boy throwing rubbish into the village stream. The whole village uses the stream for water. (a) Is he doing a good thing or a bad thing. (b) What can happen to the water. (c) What can she tell him about taking care of the stream.

ANSWERS

1. Any three of: well, borehole, river, dam, stream, rain, tap.
2. Yes. It may have germs we cannot see.
3. Sand, small stones, a cloth or a sieve.
4. It quenches thirst, cools the body and helps the body use food.
5. (a) No. (b) Sand, a cloth or a sieve. (c) A grown-up.
6. (a) A bad thing. (b) It becomes dirty and unsafe and can cause diseases. (c) The stream is the water for the whole village, so we keep it clean.

Written by 25Schools to follow the Grade 1 Science syllabus of the Zambian competence-based curriculum. Free for learners to read, download and share. More notes and quizzes at 25schools.com.