

WORLD WATER DAY

SERVICE LEARNING GUIDE

THERE IS A BALANCE OF WATER ACCESS, USE, AND DECAY. WHEN WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH KNOWLEDGE AND CONSUMPTION, WE CAN WITHER. BUT SIMULTANEOUSLY, IF WE ARE INUNDATED WITH WATER, IT CAN ALSO BE HARMFUL.

It is not your duty to complete the task, but neither are you free to desist from it.
Pirkei Avot 2:16

- Reflecting on your personal water use - how much do you think about your water consumption? When washing hands? Showering/bathing? Drinking from the tap?
- Make a list of all the ways you might use water: Daily? Weekly? Monthly or less?
- How do you think about your personal relationship to water use and its impact on others? Does it matter?



Personal

"A butterfly stirring the air today in Beijing can transform storm systems next week in New York."

- James Gleick, American author & science historian

- What do you make of your relationship to the natural world? Do you feel connected? Disconnected? Responsible? Why or why not?
- How might you imagine water as a source that connects all living beings?



Environmental



Jewish

"Jewish thought understands both the earthly usage of water and its renewing effects on the soul. Each morning, we are commanded to wash our hands and recite the blessing Netilat Yadayim. Water stimulates the synapses in our brains to break between these realms. Washing our hands is the precise moment where we express our gratitude for our earthly physical existence, for the return of our soul to our body, and prepare ourselves to take responsibility for the gifts bestowed upon us."

- Rabbi Shmuly Yanklowitz, rabbi, activist, & author

- How can our minds transform an item that we use for many purposes, like water, into an aspect of ritual?
- How would our relationship to water change if we began viewing it as renewing our souls?

Systemic



"If [a corporation] can bottle unlimited amounts of our water for \$400 a year, the cost isn't the water—the cost is the infrastructure. And how we ask communities to pay for infrastructure and whose infrastructure to pay for is the heart of the equity question."

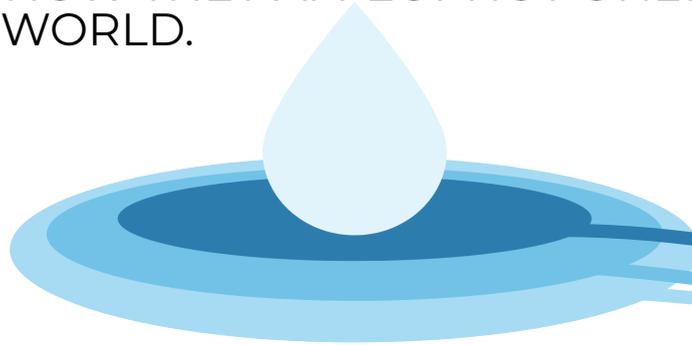
- Abdul El-Sayed, M.D., epidemiologist, activist & former executive director of the Detroit Health Department

- Water that is not contained in a vessel, cannot be grasped. This text suggests that infrastructure is a type of 'vessel'. How would explain the challenge presented above as a 'vessel' or 'grasp' issue?
- What might an individual or community do to address the issue being raised?
- How might we consider our role in addressing issues that we alone cannot solve?

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ALL WATER IN THE WORLD IS INTERCONNECTED THROUGH A CYCLICAL FLOW. WE HAVE AN OBLIGATION TO BE AWARE OF OUR ACTIONS AND HOW THEY AFFECT NOT ONLY OURSELVES BUT ALSO THE ENTIRE WORLD.



Personal

It can take 30 days of consistent behavior to establish a habit. What is a personal commitment you can make with yourself over the next month?

For example:

- Take shorter showers/ install flow restrictors
- Turn off the water while brushing teeth/ washing dishes
- Water your lawn before the sun comes up
- Compost instead of using garbage disposal
- Use water buckets for cleaning instead of running taps

Community

World

Did you know that the majority of countries share groundwater resources? There are close to 500 aquifers that are each accessed by more than one country, and 6 of the 8 largest aquifers are included!

Climate action response: While Repair focuses on direct service in our communities, many of our national partners like Dayenu are also working to create a shift in the national conversation around climate action. They offer actions you can commit to, as they work to avert the most harmful impacts of the climate crisis.

Reflection: What actions can you commit to in order to help avert the impacts of the climate crisis?

WATER RITUAL

Fill a glass with water, next to it set a bowl of salt. Take a sip of the water, now place a pinch of salt in it and taste again. Notice the slight change in the way it tastes, it's different but not bad. Place another pinch of salt in the glass, you're starting to notice a bigger difference now. The water doesn't taste as good as it did before, it may be starting to dry out your mouth a bit. Try another pinch of salt, can you take a sip? Is it too bitter? Does your water normally taste like this? What words would you use to describe the taste of water in your home before you added salt?

Passover is just around the corner. During the seder, we traditionally dip herbs in salt water.

- Why do you think we have salt water during this meal? What does it represent?
- When does the water become salty enough to make us stop and think about its meaning?
- If we have access to clean water, what are the things we need to do to be aware that not everyone does?