

Synopsis

Ecology North has helped develop this Northern focused student curriculum designed to fit in with the Grade 7 and 8 Science in Action, Grade 8 Math, and the Dene Kede school curriculums. The curriculum is comprised of two separate lessons designed to help students think critically about drinking bottled water in the Northwest Territories and the steps through which communities can and do protect their community's tap water.

Lesson 1

Behind the Bottle: Investigating the Journey of a Bottle of Water

This lesson is comprised of 9 activities that flow in sequence from each other with suggestions of further extension activities which could be pursued.

Students obtain bottled water from a local store and gather information about the water; through various distance and energy calculations they compare the energy consumption and price of bottled water with that of local tap water. Adding up the full costs of consuming bottled water then allows students to compare the ecological footprints of bottled water and tap water, and decide which is better both for themselves and for the environment.

Content

- **Teachers Guide:** Overview, Outcomes, Materials Needed, Suggested Approach, Extension Activities, Curriculum Links in the Northwest Territories, Further Resources
 - **Activity one:** Community Research: Investigating the bottled water that is sold in my community
 - **Activity two:** Compiling the Class Data on Bottled Water
 - **Activity three:** Comparing Different Kinds of Bottled Water
 - **Activity four:** How does the cost of bottled water compare to the cost of tap water?
 - **Activity five:** How far has bottled water travelled to get to our community?
 - **Activity six:** How much energy do different modes of transportation use?
 - **Activity seven:** What does all this mean? How much energy is needed to travel these distances?
 - **Activity eight:** Who profits from the sale of bottled water?
 - **Activity nine:** Synthesis, Analysis, and Presentation
- **Teacher and Student Worksheets:** Included are teacher specific and student specific handout versions of the above activities.

Lesson 2

Drinking Water in Our Community

This lesson is comprised of 3 main activities and 4 optional activities.

Students gather and access NWT-specific information online to learn about and draw their own community's watershed. They investigate the drinking water and water treatment process in their community, including where their source water comes from. They will also explore the roles and responsibilities of people who work in their communities to make sure that the water stays safe every day, through a visit to their local water treatment facility.

Optional activities include learning how to clean home water tanks, exploring our Land and Water Board registries, taking a field trip to a body of water with community Elders, and/or researching a nearby protected area.

Content

- **Teacher's Guide:** Overview, Outcomes, Materials Needed, Suggested Approach, Curriculum Links in the Northwest Territories
 - **Activity one:** Mapping Your Watershed
 - **Activity two:** Our Community Drinking Water-- Background research
 - **Activity three:** Visit to the Local Water Treatment FacilityTaking it Further
 - **Optional Activity four:** Cleaning Home Water Tanks: The final part of our drinking water's journey
 - **Optional Activity five:** Learning from our Elders
 - **Optional Activity six:** Exploring Land and Water Board Registries
 - **Optional Activity seven:** Land Conservation
- **Teacher and Student Worksheets:** Included are teacher specific and student specific handout versions of the above activities.

Publisher Information

This curriculum was developed in partnership with the NWT Water Stewardship Strategy, Northern Voices, Northern Waters plan, which was headed by an Aboriginal Steering Committee, the Government of the Northwest Territories, and Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada to ensure that "residents have access to safe, clean, and plentiful drinking water at all times".