



HEROES



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WELCOME WATER EXPLORERS!



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A Water Explorer is a curious, brave and caring young scientist who wants to understand and protect one of the most precious resources on our planet: WATER!

Just like scientists who study oceans, rivers, and lakes, you have the power to become an amazing detective of water yourself!

So, are you ready to become a Water Explorer? Head over to the next page and let your adventure begin!

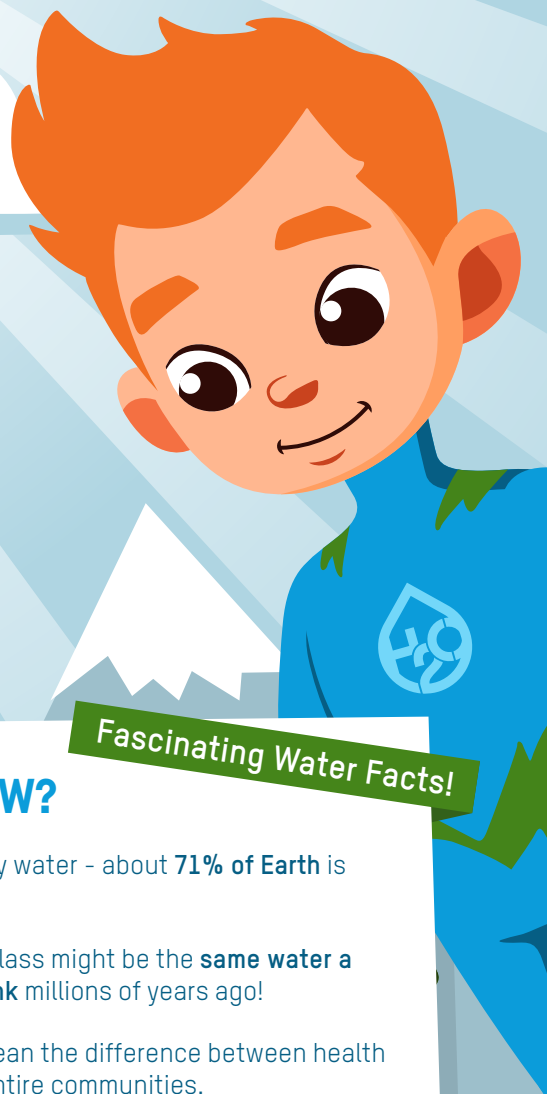


A message from a real Hydrogeologist

"HI THERE YOUNG EXPLORERS!"

...Water is incredible – it's the lifeblood of our planet. In many parts of the world, like the beautiful Pacific islands, communities are working hard to ensure everyone has access to clean water. By becoming a Water Explorer, you're joining a global team of environmental heroes who care about our blue planet and the people who depend on it."

- Katy Grant, Hydrogeologist



Fascinating Water Facts!

DID YOU KNOW?

- ◆ Our planet is mostly water - about **71% of Earth** is covered in water!
- ◆ The water in your glass might be the **same water a dinosaur once drank** millions of years ago!
- ◆ Clean water can mean the difference between health and sickness for entire communities.
- ◆ **Water is magic!** It can carve mountains, support entire ecosystems and is essential for all life on Earth.



THE MAGIC WATER FILTER EXPERIMENT



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Are you ready to become a real water scientist? This experiment will show you how filters can help clean water and why clean water is so important!

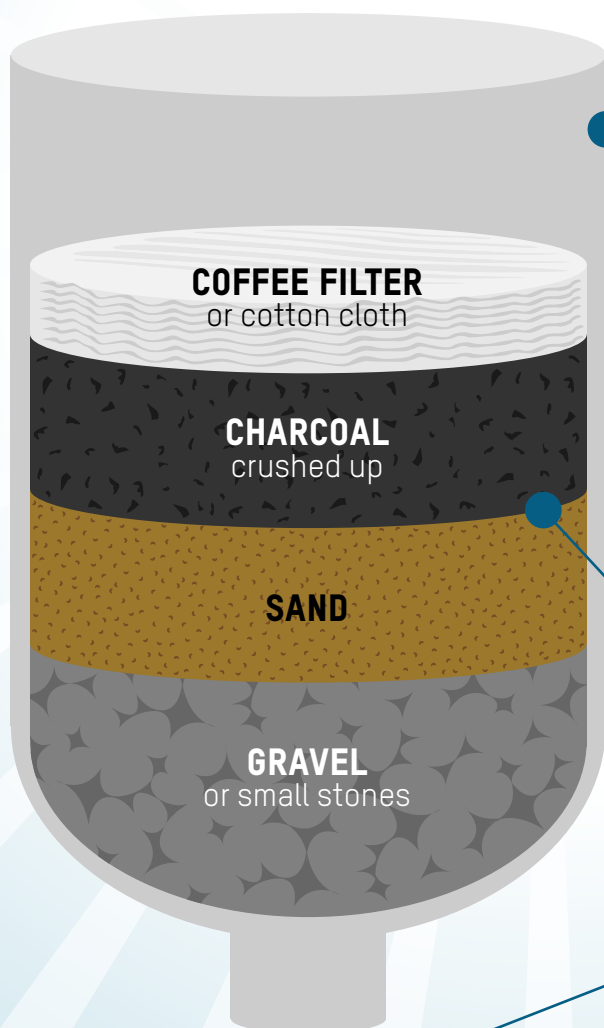
SAFETY FIRST!

! Ask an adult to help you with this experiment.

! Do NOT drink the filtered water - this is a science experiment!

YOU WILL NEED...

- ◆ Clear plastic bottle (empty water or soda bottle)
- ◆ Scissors (ask an adult to help!)
- ◆ Coffee filter or clean cotton cloth
- ◆ Gravel or small stones
- ◆ Sand
- ◆ Crushed charcoal (from a bbq - ask an adult to help!)
- ◆ Dirty water (mix water with soil or safe kitchen scraps)
- ◆ Large clear cup or container
- ◆ Spoon for mixing



1

Prepare Your Filter

Clean your plastic bottle thoroughly

Ask an adult to help you cut off the bottom of the bottle

Turn the bottle upside down like a funnel

2

Create Your Filter Layers

Layer your filtering materials in this order

3

The Filtering Test

Place your prepared filter over a clear cup

Slowly pour your dirty water through the filter - the slower the better!

Watch carefully and record what happens in your Science Journal!

MY SCIENCE JOURNAL



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Print this page out and add your thoughts

QUESTIONS TO THINK ABOUT

- What colour is the water before filtering? And after?

- Which layer do you think does the most 'cleaning'? Why?

- How might people in different parts of the world use similar filtering methods to get clean water?



Katy's notes

"REMEMBER..."

Real water treatment is much more complex! This experiment shows how basic water filtering works, but clean water for drinking needs special scientific processes."



Water is a precious resource - every drop counts! This water isn't clean enough to drink, but **a plant will love it!**

Top tip!

WHAT MAKES WATER CLEAN OR DIRTY?



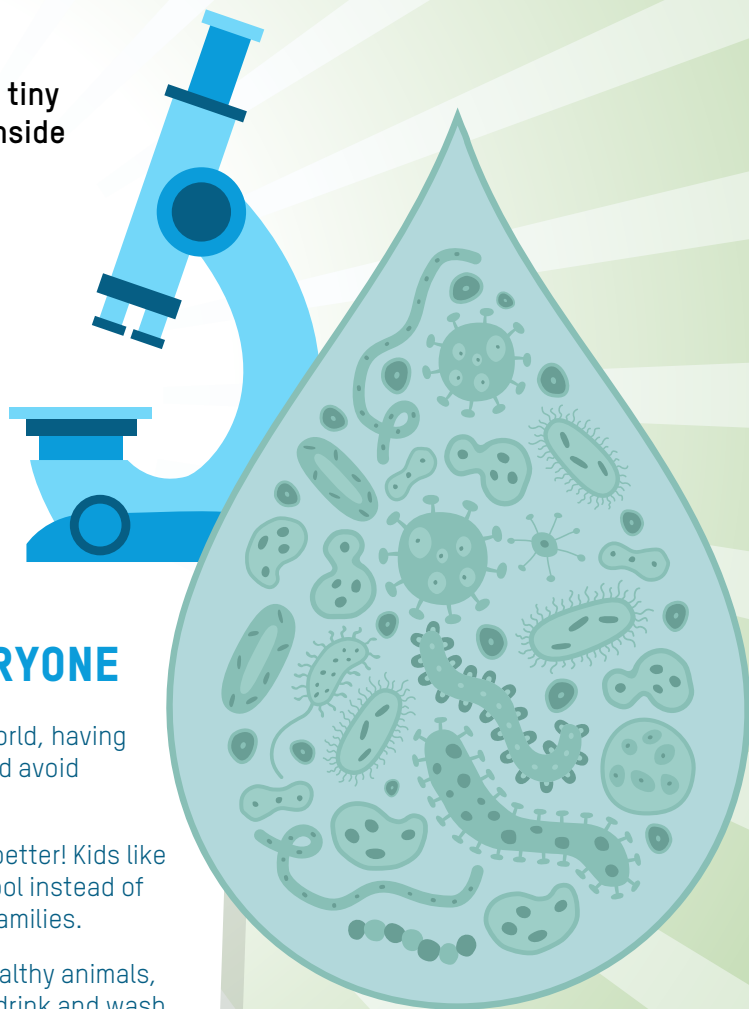
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Imagine you could shrink down to the size of a tiny water droplet and explore the invisible world inside a single drop of water! What would you find?

- ◆ Clean water looks crystal clear
- ◆ Dirty water has lots of tiny bacteria. Some bacteria are helpful, but some can make you really sick.
- ◆ Bacteria found in dirty water can't be seen without a microscope!



CLEAN WATER MATTERS TO EVERYONE

Clean water can change lives! For children around the world, having clean water means they can stay healthy and strong, and avoid getting sick from drinking dirty water.

When people have safe drinking water, everything gets better! Kids like you get better education because they get to go to school instead of spending hours walking each day to get water for their families.

With clean water, farmers can grow more crops, raise healthy animals, and make sure everyone in their families has enough to drink and wash with. The more they grow, the more money they can earn to buy all the things a family needs.

Meet Nanise and Christopher!

In Tonga, students Nanise and Christopher are helping their community become water heroes too!

Their school has special water tanks that not only provide clean water for students, but also help nearby families during dry seasons.

Nanise and Christopher participate in their school's WASH Club, where they teach younger students about water conservation and show them how to wash their hands so they don't get sick!

These young Water Explorers are learning how to protect their community and help keep everyone safe, proving that even kids can make a big difference in managing clean water.



Photo: Rachel Schaevitz

MEET WATER HEROES AROUND THE WORLD



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All around the world, kids and their families get water in different ways. Some people turn on a tap in their kitchen, some collect rainwater and others share a village water pump. Let's meet some water heroes and see how they find water every day!

DID YOU KNOW?

In many countries, mums and kids have to fetch water first thing when they wake up, before school or even breakfast!

Without pipes delivering water right to your house – **where is the closest place you could gather clean drinking water?**

Using Google maps, check how far you would have to walk to get water from a lake, river, or stream. Now **imagine walking all the way there and back BEFORE school each day!**



Natalia

Poland

Natalia* gets clean water from handwashing points Oxfam installed in a refugee camp in Poland.

*Natalia is a real girl, but we've changed her name to keep her safe

Photo: Tineke D'haese



Margarito

Guatemala

Photo: James Rodriguez

Margarito uses rainwater he collects in irrigation pits for watering the family garden.



Madina

Kenya

Photo: Mark Wahwa

Madina walks to a distant river to collect water, carrying a large yellow jerry can back to her family.



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Kham

Laos

Kham collects water from a community borehole (deep well).

Photo: Rachel Schaevitz

Somano

Papua New Guinea

Photo: Aimee Han

Somano waters his garden using water from the community tap system, growing vegetables that he sells at the local market.

Samjho

Pakistan

Photo: Tooba Niazi

Samjho stands in line at the village water pump each day to fill her family's water pots.

Water touches every part of our daily lives in ways we often don't even notice. From the moment we wake up and brush our teeth, to preparing meals, staying hydrated and keeping ourselves and our homes clean. Water is super important!

WATER IN YOUR WORLD

- ◆ How do **YOU** use water every day?
- ◆ What simple ways could you **save water**?
- ◆ What would you do if water was hard to find?





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THANK YOU FOR BEING A WATER HERO!

We hope you enjoyed your Water Explorer Guide & Kit.

At Oxfam Aotearoa, we believe everyone has the right to clean water.

In the Pacific and around the world, Oxfam works with communities to provide safe water, making sure families stay safe and healthy.

Clean water changes everything - it keeps people healthy, helps children stay in school and supports families to grow healthy food and earn an income. And you can help with that.

Find out more about Oxfam Aotearoa's work at oxfam.org.nz



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