

The needs balloon

Learning Objectives

Identify the difference between a need and a want
Understand the importance of water as a basic need

Materials

Cut up strips of paper; 10 for each group of 5 students

Time 45 mins

Teacher talk

You are going to leave for a journey of one year in a hot-air balloon. The hot-air balloon is extremely big; each of you will have your own room with electricity.

Group work

Students **list** 10 things they will take with them for the journey.
(Make sure they think about taking water and food!)

Write each item onto a strip of paper.

Teacher talk

Close your eyes and **imagine** you are flying very high in the air.

(**Describe** what they see down from above and how they feel.)

In a jolt, the hot-air balloon begins to come down!

To prevent it from falling, you have to throw away a need from their balloon!

Group work

Define:

- which need they would be ready to sacrifice
- which they would like to keep longer.

When they throw a need, the balloon stabilizes. But soon, the balloon begins to come down again and they must abandon another need.

Take note of what order they throw out the need by writing the number on the other side of the paper (1 for the first need thrown, 2 for the second, etc.) This continues until there remains one single need.

Class Discussion

The groups tell the teacher which is their need number 10 (the most important) and the number 1 (the least important).

Write down the order on the board.



What was everyone's last thing to throw?

Are there needs that are so essential we could not do without? Why?

What is the difference between a need and a want?

Why do you think water is the most important need?

Does everyone in the world need water?

Do you think everyone in the world gets water the same way?

Wrap up & Intro to the Project *Youth Changing the World*

Watch the *Children Changing the World* video.

Students **identify** two similarities and two differences they saw between Canadian kids and Indian kids.

Teacher talk

We will be doing a project with SOPAR to help kids get easier access to water.

Explain the water project.

Class Discussion

Are the 'needs' and 'wants' of Canadian and Indian children different? (The wants may be a little different, but all children need water.)

Any questions?

'The Needs Balloon' activity was adapted from: 'Rights Balloon' by Pike & Selby, 1988.