

HANDOUT_1_teacher - Why care about water?

Which is the percentage of water too salty to drink? 97%

Which is the percentage of water locked up in ice-caps and glaciers? 2%

Complete with the missing words/sentences. Look for the unknown words by using the monolingual vocabulary

Water is the basis of life and only a **tiny share** of all the water on Earth is fresh and **renewed** by the water cycle.

If you took all the water in the world and put it into a **gallon jug**, less than one **teaspoon** of it would be available to us.

We're **overusing** it, we're **over-tapping** rivers and we're **over-pumping groundwater**.

We live at a time in history where over a billion people don't have access to safe drinking water and over three billion people have no access to **sanitation**.

Water is a global **issue** but it's also a very local issue.

We forget that we live on **hydrosphere** and that all of our water resources are connected.

Water that runs in the Ganges could also **end up** in the Hudson, or could **fall over** the **plains** of Africa or could make a cup of tea in the Queen's palace.

To support the average American **lifestyle** today takes about twice the global **average**.

The great American **lawn** is a great example of one of the **myriad of ways** that we **take water for granted**.

We can't continue **to flaunt** our water. Agriculture is something that we really need **to give thought to**.

70% of all the water we extract from rivers lakes and **aquifers** goes to irrigated agriculture.

To some extent, we're using some of tomorrow's water to meet today's food demands.

Large number people I talked to, when they learn that the Colorado - the **mighty force of nature** - no longer **reaches** the sea, there's **a look of shock** in most people's faces.

At the **Delta** it literally runs dry.

We are **using and abusing** our water resources in ways that are **completely unsustainable**.

And unless we think about it that way and we start taking action at an individual level, then I don't really see how we'll be able to overcome so many of the issues that we're going to be faced with in the next 50 years.

And this is our time in history to do something about it.