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LANGUIN ACTIVE READING

LEVEL 2

Water for Life

Bernard Smith



Contents

| | | |
|-----------|----------------------------------|----|
| | Activities 1 | iv |
| Chapter 1 | Problems with Water | 1 |
| | Activities 2 | 6 |
| Chapter 2 | A World of Water | 8 |
| | Activities 3 | 12 |
| Chapter 3 | Fresh Water from Rain | 14 |
| | Activities 4 | 18 |
| Chapter 4 | Lessons from the Past | 20 |
| | Activities 5 | 24 |
| Chapter 5 | Dams, Ice and Other Answers | 26 |
| | Activities 6 | 32 |
| Chapter 6 | What can we do? | 34 |
| | Talk about it | 40 |
| | Write about it | 41 |
| | Project: The Inuit of the Arctic | 42 |

1.1 what's the book about?

1 Discuss these questions.

- You drink and cook with water every day. Where does it come from?
- Why is water important for life?

2 Look at these pictures and the words below them.

- What are these words in your language?



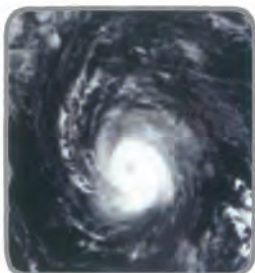
drought



flood



ice, iceberg



hurricane, typhoon



waves



pollute, pollution

- Talk about two of the pictures. How are these dangerous to people?

3 What other 'water words' do you know?

1.2 What's first?

The first chapter is about 'Problems with Water'. How many problems can you think of before you read? Write notes in your notebook.

Problems with Water

Some people say that there will be big problems in the future. Countries will fight about water.

Water. We drink it. We cook with it. We wash with it. We can't live without it. It gives life to everything – to people, animals and **plants**. It is everywhere: in the seas, in the rivers, in the **air** and in our food. Most of us don't think about it very much. Water is there for us, in our kitchens and in our bathrooms, every day.

But it is not there for everybody, and our world is changing fast. We have to think very carefully about water, and about our use of it.

The world's weather

So what is happening? Cars, planes, **factories** and city life are making the world warmer every year. The air is warmer; our seas are warmer. This is **causing** changes to the weather round the world. Some cold countries are getting warmer. Some hot countries are getting hotter. Rainfall is changing everywhere.

Hurricanes and floods

In many countries, the warm air brings more rain and causes floods every year. Warmer air above warmer seas takes more water up into the air. This can cause hurricanes and typhoons. They begin over the seas and move quickly. When they get to **land**, they can be very big. Strong winds and heavy rainfall hit cities. They often cause big waves at sea too. When these waves hit the land, there are bad floods. People die.

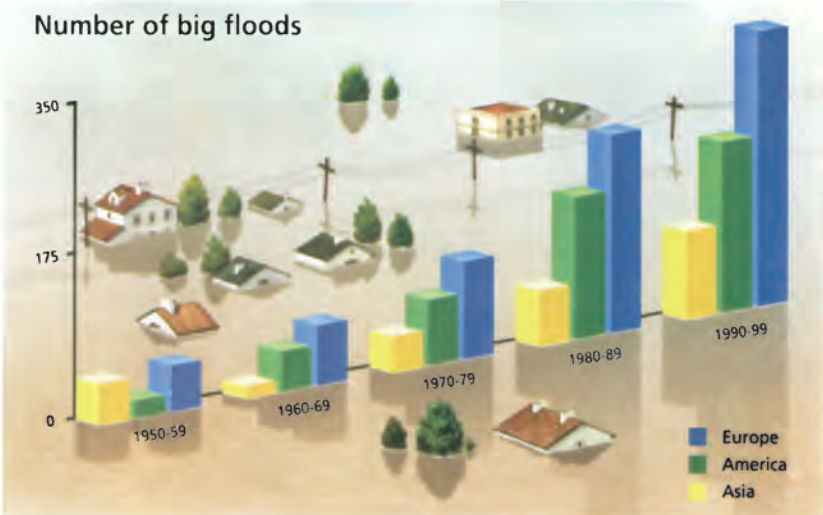
plant /plɑ:nt/ (n/v) Trees and flowers are *plants*. You *plant* a tree when you put it in the ground.

air /eə/ (n) Birds fly in the *air*. We can't live without it.

factory /'fæktəri/ (n) A *factory* is a big building. People make things in it.

cause /kɔ:z/ (v/n) When you *cause* something, it happens.

land /lænd/ (n) We have to swim in the sea, but we can walk on *land*.



Year after year, there are more floods.

In August 2005, Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans in the United States and flooded 80% of the city. In some places the water was 6 metres high. More than 1,800 people died.



Hurricane Katrina floods New Orleans.

Every year, more of Bangladesh is under water in the summer. In 1988, more than 3,000 people died in big floods, and 3,000,000 people lost their homes. In 1991, nearly 140,000 people died when 4.5 metre waves hit the land. Some places are now under water all the time, and a lot of people die from **diseases**. This flood water is dirty, of course, and it goes into the ground water. There is water everywhere, but the Bangladeshis can't drink it.

disease /di'zi:z/ (n) A disease makes you ill. It can also kill you.

● Not enough rain

In other countries, the problem is not *too much* rain but *not enough*. There isn't as much rain as before, and there are long droughts. Fires start easily because trees are very dry. The fires quickly get bigger and more dangerous.

We can see these changes now. Australia has a drought nearly every year. The big rivers in the south-west are often dry. Dangerous fires start every summer near the cities of Sydney and Melbourne in the south-east, and the air in the cities is black with smoke. In the south of France and Spain too, there are droughts most summers, and there are often big fires.

● Problems of ice and snow

At the same time, the ice in the north and south of the world is **melting**, so seas everywhere are slowly getting higher. The ice is melting fast. In 1980, Arctic ice was about 5 metres thick. Now it is only about 3 metres in some places. The people of the Arctic countries are losing their food and their homes. In many places the ice is too dangerous – they can't walk on it. Animals and birds are also losing their food. Many of them are dying.



Arctic animals are dying because they can't catch food.

enough /i'naʃ/ (pron/det) When you don't want more of something, you have *enough*.
melt /melt/ (v) Ice *melts* into water when it gets warm.

by **Bernard Smith**

British English

Original

Water. We drink it. We cook with it. We wash with it. We can't live without it. Most of us don't think about it much. But it is not there for everybody, and our world is changing fast. We have to think very carefully about water, and about our use of it.

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