



## Economics, Illiteracy, Water and Cholera

After reading the case study pupils work in pairs to match “problems” that contribute towards water contamination with “solutions” to improve the quality of water. The UN identifies unclean water as a major cause of premature death in Africa and one which can be easily prevented by investment in improving access to clean water.

### Objectives:

- To explore the health problems caused by drinking polluted water.
- To identify the solutions to problems caused by drinking polluted water.
- To explore how economic decisions by governments can impact citizens.
- To explore how historical lack of access to education can impact health and community development.

### You will need:

- Copies of the “South Africa Cholera Crisis of 2000-2002” case study to read then pass out to the children
- Copies of the “Problems and Solutions” sheet (one copy for each pair of pupils)

**Time:** 45-60 minutes

### Instructions:

- Read the case study. Explain anything that is not clear e.g. that germs can live in water.
- Children, working in pairs, read the Problems/ Solutions list. After discussion with each other they match up each problem with a solution, by drawing a line or an arrow.
- The children choose one of the problems and create an education poster on the solutions or create a comic strip for use as a teaching aid for hygiene education, using the information provided.

**Answers:** 1/G; 2/A; 3/E; 4/I; 5/B; 6/D; 7/F; 8/C; 9/H; 10/J



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### Problems and Solutions

PROBLEMS	SOLUTIONS
1. Shortage of water	A. Proper waste disposal
2. Waste going into the river	B. Keeping food covered, away from flies
3. Lack of hygienic use of toilets	C. Using water from clean sources
4. Lack of education about healthy living	D. Washing hands before handling food or eating
5. Food contaminated by flies	E. Washing hands after using the toilet
6. Flies carrying germs and diseases	F. Building proper latrines away from water sources
7. Water source being infected by polluted water	G. Government responsible for clean water provision—Reasonable rates for water
8. Stagnant water (water that is still / not moving)	H. Community taking responsibility for keeping the area clean and free of rubbish
9. Rubbish left lying about	I. Education programs for everyone especially women
10. Large numbers not able to qualify for existing jobs.	J. Access to education and training programs to reverse years of no access under apartheid.