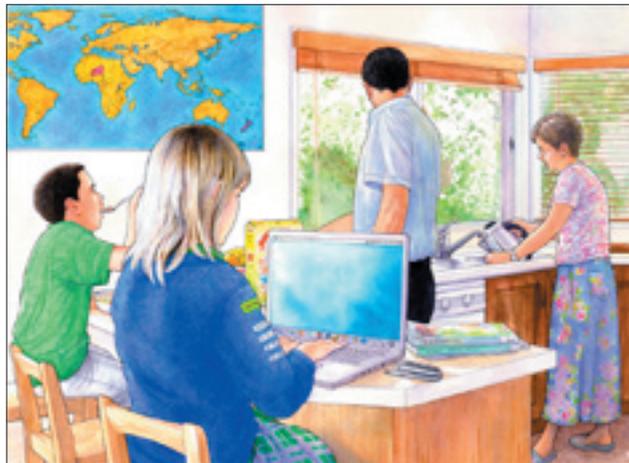




Not a Drop to Drink

Scenario

Many New Zealanders take our safe and reliable water supply for granted. Taking things for granted can be difficult and costly when something suddenly goes wrong. When a resource like water becomes scarce our view of it changes. Using your knowledge of skilful prediction how would your view of water change if the taps failed?



Exploratory Environment

Dear Parents

We are about to start a new social studies Quest called 'Not a Drop to Drink.' This unit of work has been developed here at Birkdale Intermediate with the assistance of World Vision. Our students work in pairs to answer the question posed in the scenario.

They search a multimedia resource called a Quest, listening to video interviews, reading newspaper articles and looking at photographs. The Quest is used to teach the Resources and Economic Activities section of the National Social Studies Curriculum. Our students look in depth at, 'why people's views about a resource and their uses of it may change over time (e.g., depletion of resources) – identifying different values people may attach to a resource.'

The students are being asked to predict how their view of water would change if the taps failed. Their work will be assessed on the strength of their argument.

Ways in which you could support your child during this study:

- Check out the following web sites:

World Vision

<http://www.worldvision.co.nz/>

Watercare Services

<http://www.watercare.co.nz/index.sm>

Metrowater

<http://www.metrowater.co.nz/>

- Have you ever been without without water, food or electricity?

Discuss things we take for granted and how their loss would have a major effect on our lives.

What might happen?

What evidence is available that is relevant to whether the prediction is likely?



Niger



Afghanistan

Quest Awards and Presentations



Online Learning Award

Recognizing creative teachers for their pioneering use of telecommunication networks to provide innovative learning opportunities for school-age students.



Presented at the National Education Computing Conference, New Orleans, United States of America.



Presenting at the 13th International Conference on Thinking, Norrkoping, Sweden.



Presented at the National Centre for Teaching Thinking's Summer Institute held at Tufts University, Boston, Massachusetts, United States of America.

Yours sincerely

Richard Coote
Principal