



**Global  
Young  
Leaders**

WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL OF DALLAS/FORT WORTH

## **JWAC Lesson Plan**

### **India's Clean Water Crisis**

Noah Carr, June 2018

**Warm up:** *Are you familiar with the country of India? What do you know about sanitation in relation to health?*

#### **Fast Facts:**

- India has the largest postal system in the world
- India is the largest democracy in the world
- Majority Hindu country; 79.48% of the country is Hindu

**Discussion:** India has had a long and proud history. Some of the first civilizations were based in the river valleys in India and India prospered under some of its greatest empires. The Taj Mahal, in fact, was completed under the Mughal Empire. The Indian empire would fall to the British Raj and would remain a British colony until after World War 2. India would then separate from its neighbors into its own individual republic in the Partition of India. India is now the 2<sup>nd</sup> most populous nation in the world and as a land size roughly third of the that of the US.

#### **Case Study: India's Waters**

**Background:** In terms of land size to population, India is an extremely population dense country. With only two percent of the world's land it houses 16 percent of the overall world population. On top of its population density, India is also a developing nation, meaning that much of its infrastructure still needs improvement, including the infrastructure for water transport, purification, and overall sanitation. As early as 1898, the British Raj tried to tackle the problem of sanitation in India, but many business leaders were more interested in labor rather than hygiene. Since then, legislators in India have passed several laws prohibiting the expansion of restrooms without running water to little effect. Running water is essential in keeping areas clean of waste. Because of the high levels of urbanization, and its lack in infrastructure, India ranks 120<sup>th</sup> out of 122 countries in terms of water quality.

**Video:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=orIFs72HGmM>

**Activity:** Use the Lesson Plans provided by the Water Project to help emphasize the importance of *clean, available* water: <https://thewaterproject.org/resources/lesson-plans/>



### **Discussion:**

*How might India's government effectively combat the low quality of water in India? Why do you think people in India have not forced the government to solve the water problem? How do other nations handle sanitation and water transport? How does India's status as a developing nation leave it more open to problems in water quality?*

**Recap and Reaching Further:** India's history has a long and proud tradition. From as recent as Mahatma Gandhi to some of the first civilizations in the world, India has a rich history made from the stuff of legends. Despite its fame, India still struggles to provide some basic needs for its people include sanitation. In India, more than 500 children die a day from diarrhea and more than 20% of all diseases are on account of unsafe water. Despite having one of the largest economies in the world, India still shows the struggles of developing nations. *How might India's past as a colony have helped cause its current situation? What sort of effects would poor sanitation have on the Indian populace?*

In the western world, there is clean water from several different sources. Westerners don't need to think twice, typically, before getting into a bath, drinking water from a tap, or looking for a restroom. India's problems are not unique to India alone. Countries like Ghana, Ethiopia, and the DRC also suffer from the same problems with sanitation as India.

### **Call to Action:**

A good way to help the people of India and others like them is to help organizations like UNICEF working to provide it with nations with clean water:

<http://unicef.in/Story/1125/Water--Environment-and-Sanitation>

The [U.S. Fund for UNICEF](#) has a Dallas office and is always looking for ways to engage young people in the community through [school resources](#), fundraisers like [Trick or Treat for UNICEF](#), and their [KID Power](#) program.

Consider [donating your birthday](#) to [Charity: Water](#) to provide clean water to people around the world!

### **Works Cited:**

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