



WHAT'S IN YOUR WATER? THE MUDFIGHT

Name _____

The kids in the video were having a great time playing in the water and throwing mud at each other. Then one of them heard a cow mooing, which got him thinking that it might be more than mud. What do you think it was? How do you think it got in the water? Clean water is something we often take for granted!

Clean water is an important and complex issue, not only in Iowa and the United States, but around the world. Many places around the globe have little clean water available, and people are forced to use contaminated water, leading to illness and sometimes death. In many poor areas of the world, there might be one water pipe for an entire village or town, or there may be no running water and people (usually girls and women) have to walk long distances to get it. If that water is contaminated, it affects large numbers of people.

Find the definitions for the following words:

potable: _____

contaminated: _____

grey water: _____

aquifer: _____

disease: _____

sanitation: _____

well: _____

Research to find answers to the following questions:

- What percentage of the Earth's water is fresh as opposed to salt water? Fresh water _____ Salt water _____
- What percentage of the Earth's fresh water is available for humans to use? _____
- What percentage of the world's population has adequate access to clean water? _____



• What countries have the best access to clean water? _____

• In what countries is there little access to clean water? _____

• Name three causes of contaminated water. _____

• Describe a specific example of how one person's actions can contaminate water for many people.

• Explain how girls in particular may be prevented from getting an education by the lack of clean water close to their homes.

Now that you have done some research on global water problems, complete one of the following assignments:

• Write a 1-page paper summarizing your thoughts about what can be done to provide access to clean water for everyone.

• Compare the life of a young person your age in an area with little or no clean water with your life, describing how water affects each of your lives, including health issues and daily activities.

• Write a short story about someone your age who does not have adequate access to clean water and how it affects their life. Include their hopes and dreams for a better life.