

World Water Day - Nature for Water

What Is World Water Day?

World Water Day is on 22nd March every year. It focuses our attention on the importance of water across the world. In many poorer areas around the world, floods, droughts and storms cause water problems, such as:

- polluted water, which means it is unsafe to drink;
- lack of food, due to crops failing.

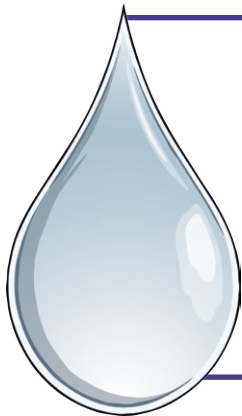
In 2018, the theme for World Water Day is 'Nature for Water'.

Nature for Water

This year's theme explores how nature can be used to help improve the water challenges facing many people around the world. By changing nature, it is possible to help increase the amount of clean water available. This will not solve the problems of flooding, drought or storms but should help people without costing too much money.

Possible Nature-Based Solutions (NBS)

- **Replanting forests or grasslands** – Replanting areas which humans or natural disasters have destroyed can help to rebalance water levels around the globe. This will help both humans and animals in those areas.



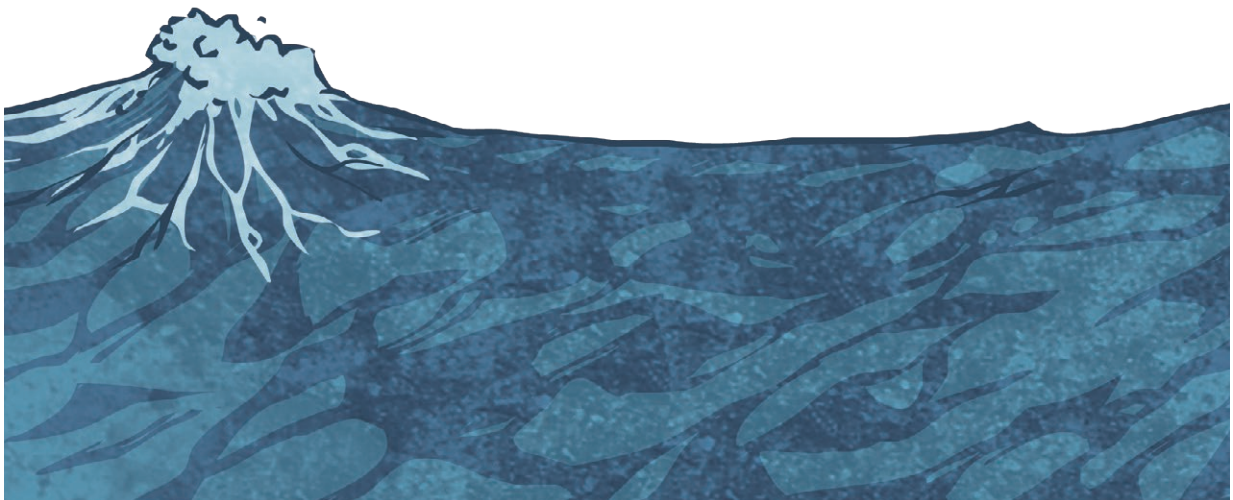
Did You Know...?

2.1 billion people have no safe drinking water. World Water Day aims to solve this by 2030 for most people in towns and cities.

- **Reconnecting floodplains** – Floodplains are areas of low, flat land next to rivers. If these are reconnected, they can provide benefits to wildlife, fish and people by giving both space and clean water.
- **Sand dams** – In very dry areas, such as Zimbabwe, sand dams are used to increase the amount of water that can be stored. This means that farmers can grow more crops and people have more drinking water.
- **New forests** – By planting new forests, rivers can refill and wildlife can return to areas.

None of these solutions will happen quickly but the positive effects of them should last over time.

The Answer Is in Nature



Questions

1. What is the theme for World Water Day this year? Tick one.

- ☐ Nature-Based Solutions
- ☐ Sand Dams
- ☐ The Answer Is in Nature
- ☐ Nature for Water

2. What sorts of water problems are there? Tick one.

- ☐ droughts
- ☐ floods
- ☐ storms
- ☐ all of the above

3. How many people have no safe drinking water? Tick one.

- ☐ 2.1 billion
- ☐ 2030
- ☐ 2018
- ☐ most

4. Which of these is a nature-based solution? Tick one.

- ☐ Nature for Water
- ☐ reconnecting floodplains
- ☐ increasing the amount of clean water
- ☐ flooding

5. Fill in the missing words in this sentence:

By changing nature, it is possible to help _____ the amount of _____ available.

6. What are floodplains?

7. Which nature-based solution sounds most interesting to you? Give two reasons.

Answers

1. What is the theme for World Water Day this year? Tick one.

- ☐ Nature-Based Solutions
- ☐ Sand Dams
- ☐ The Answer Is in Nature
- ☒ **Nature for Water**

2. What sorts of water problems are there? Tick one.

- ☐ droughts
- ☐ floods
- ☐ storms
- ☒ **all of the above**

3. How many people have no safe drinking water? Tick one.

- ☒ **2.1 billion**
- ☐ 2030
- ☐ 2018
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4. Which of these is a nature-based solution? Tick one.

- ☐ Nature for Water
- ☒ **reconnecting floodplains**
- ☐ increasing the amount of clean water
- ☐ flooding

5. Fill in the missing words in this sentence:

By changing nature, it is possible to help **increase** the amount of **clean water** available.

6. What are floodplains?

Accept 'areas of low, flat land next to rivers' only.

7. Which nature-based solution sounds most interesting to you? Give two reasons.

Child's own response (must be one of the four NBS and two reasons must be given).

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What Is World Water Day?

World Water Day is on 22nd March every year. It focuses our attention on the importance of water across the world. In many of the poorest areas around the world, floods, droughts and storms cause problems such as:

- polluted water, which means it is contaminated and unsafe to drink;
- lack of food, due to crops failing;
- areas becoming poorer because farmers are not able to trade crops;
- arguments over who should receive food and water.

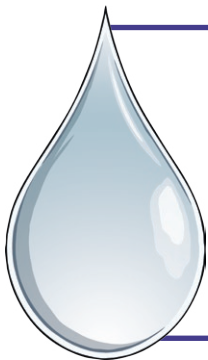
In 2018, the theme for World Water Day is 'Nature for Water'.

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This year's theme explores how nature can be used to help improve the water challenges facing many people around the world currently. By changing nature, it is possible to help increase the amount of clean water available. This will not solve the problems of flooding, drought or storms but should help people without costing too much money.

Possible Nature-Based Solutions (NBS)

- **Replanting forests or grasslands** – Replanting areas which humans or natural disasters have destroyed can help to rebalance water levels around the globe. This will help both humans and animals in those areas.



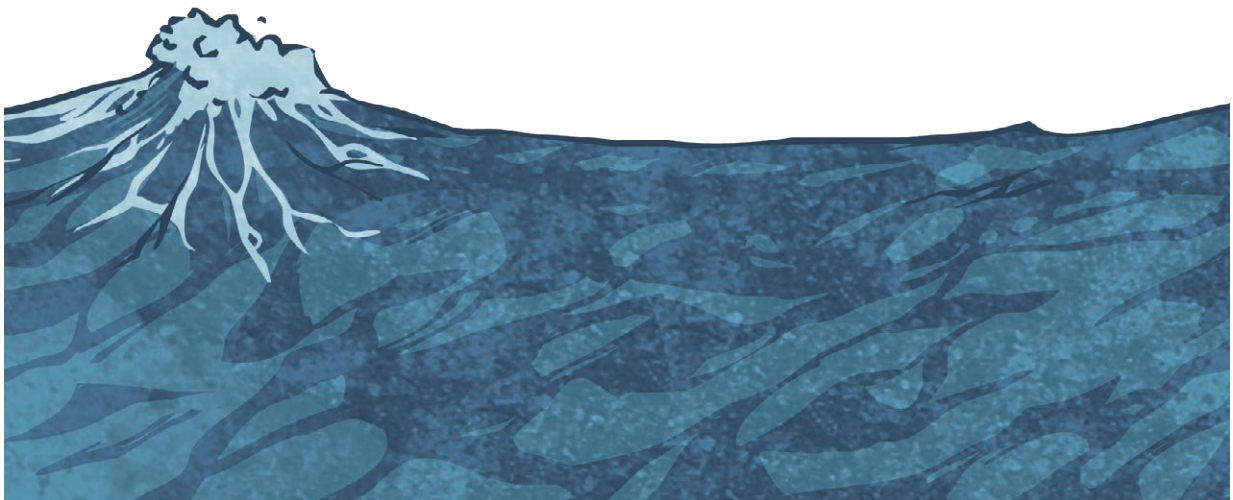
Did You Know...?

2.1 billion people have no safe drinking water. World Water Day aims to solve this by 2030 for at least 80% of people in towns and cities.

- **Reconnecting floodplains** – Floodplains are areas of low, flat land next to rivers, which often flood. If these are reconnected, they can provide benefits to wildlife, fish and people by giving both space and clean water.
- **Sand dams** – In very dry areas, such as Zimbabwe, sand dams are used to increase the amount of water that can be stored. This means that farmers can grow more crops and people have more drinking water.
- **New forests** – By planting new forests, rivers can refill and wildlife can return to areas.

None of these solutions will happen quickly but the positive effects of them should last over time.

The Answer Is in Nature



Questions

1. Which one of these is **not** a nature-based solution? Tick one.

- ☐ reconnecting floodplains
- ☐ sand dams
- ☐ Nature for Water
- ☐ new forests

2. Draw lines to match the questions and answers.

How many people have no safe drinking water?	22 nd March
When does World Water Day aim to have solved this issue by?	2.1 billion
Which day is World Water Day?	2030

3. What does polluted mean? Tick one.

- ☐ clean and safe
- ☐ clean and unsafe
- ☐ contaminated and unsafe
- ☐ contaminated and safe

4. Why are sand dams used? Tick one.

- ☐ to rebalance water levels
- ☐ to give space and clean water
- ☐ to increase the amount of water that can be stored
- ☐ to refill rivers

5. What is the effect of planting new forests?

6. Why do people have a lack of food when there are water problems?

7. Why is it important that nature-based solutions do not cost too much money?

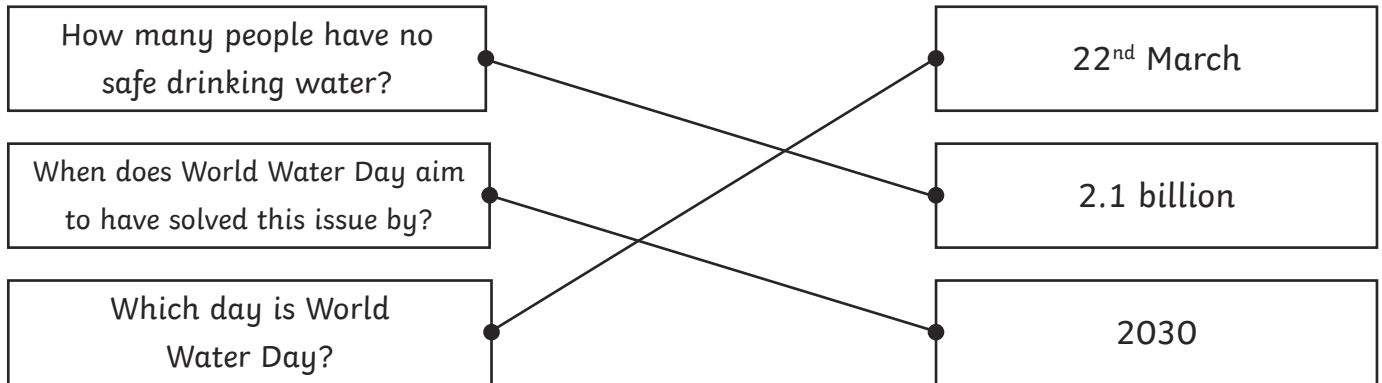
8. Explain why it important to think about water issues.

Answers

1. Which one of these is **not** a nature-based solution? Tick one.

- ☐ reconnecting floodplains
- ☐ sand dams
- ☒ **Nature for Water**
- ☐ new forests

2. Draw lines to match the questions and answers.



3. What does polluted mean? Tick one.

- ☐ clean and safe
- ☐ clean and unsafe
- ☒ **contaminated and unsafe**
- ☐ contaminated and safe

4. Why are sand dams used? Tick one.

- ☐ to rebalance water levels
- ☐ to give space and clean water
- ☒ **to increase the amount of water that can be stored**
- ☐ to refill rivers

5. What is the effect of planting new forests?

Accept: 'rivers can refill and wildlife can return to areas' only.

6. Why do people have a lack of food when there are water problems?

Accept: 'due to crops failing' only.

7. Why is it important that nature-based solutions do not cost too much money?

Accept any reasonable explanation linked to text, such as: Water problems often occur in the poorest areas of the world, so any solution needs to be good value for money.

8. Explain why it important to think about water issues.

Accept any reasonable explanation linked to text, such as: Water problems affect a large number of people around the world (2.1 billion people don't have safe drinking water) so it is important for us to think about how we can help.

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What Is World Water Day?

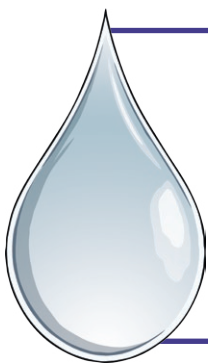
Every year, on 22nd March, World Water Day focuses our attention on the importance of water across the world. Unfortunately, in many of the poorest areas around the world such as Somalia and Kenya, floods, droughts and storms cause problems. There are many negative effects associated with water problems:

- crops fail and people starve
- farmers lose money, meaning an area becomes poor
- people have to drink polluted water and get ill
- arguments start over who should receive food and water, meaning wars may start

In 2018, the theme for World Water Day is 'Nature for Water'.

Nature for Water

This year's theme explores how nature can be used to help improve the water challenges facing many people around the world currently. By altering nature, it is possible to help increase the amount of clean water available. These solutions are not a quick fix, as altering nature is not always easy and they will not stop the problems of flooding, drought or storms but they should provide **cost-effective** ways of helping.



Did You Know...?

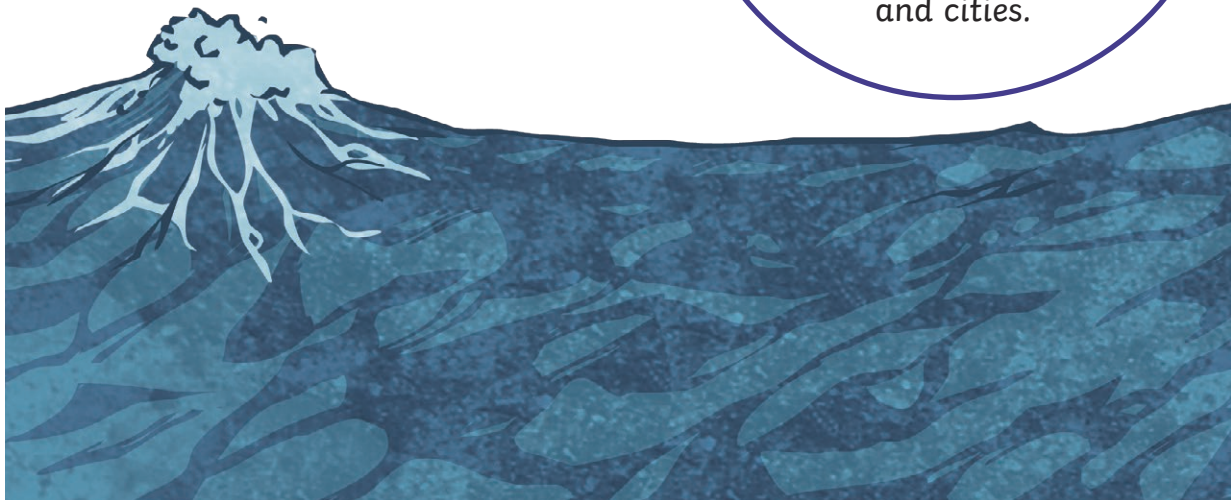
2.1 billion people have no safe drinking water. World Water Day aims to solve this by 2030 for at least 80% of people in **urban** areas.

Possible Nature-Based Solutions (NBS)

- **Replanting forests or grasslands** – Replanting areas which humans or natural disasters have destroyed can help to rebalance water levels around the globe, which will help both humans and animals in those areas.
- **Reconnecting rivers to floodplains** – Floodplains are areas of low, flat land next to rivers, which often flood. If these are reconnected, they can provide benefits to wildlife, fish and people by giving both space and clean water.
- **Sand dams** – In very dry areas, such as Zimbabwe, sand dams are used to increase the amount of water that can be stored. This means that farmers can grow more crops and people have more drinking water.
- **New forests** – By planting new forests, rivers can refill and wildlife can return to areas.
- **'Sponge Cities'** – In some areas of China, new cities are being developed. These cities will have green roofs and walls, with plants growing on them to capture moisture. They will also have special pavements, with small holes to allow water to soak through to be stored for future use.

None of these solutions will happen quickly but the positive effects of them should last over time.

The Answer Is in Nature



Glossary

cost-effective – Good value for money.

polluted – Contaminated and unsafe.

urban – Towns and cities.

Questions

1. 'By altering nature, it is possible to help increase the amount of clean water available.'
What does the word altering mean? Tick one.

- ☐ leaving alone
☐ changing
☐ remaining the same
☐ ending

2. Draw a line to complete the sentences.

Replanting areas which humans or
natural disasters have destroyed

rivers can refill and wildlife
can return to areas.

By planting new forests,

sand dams are used to increase the
amount of water that can be stored.

In very dry areas, such
as Zimbabwe,

can help to rebalance water
levels around the globe.

3. Name two negative effects of water problems.

4. Fill in the missing words from this sentence:

'This year's theme explores how _____ can be used to help improve the
_____ facing many people around the world currently.'

5. Find and copy a phrase which tells you NBS won't involve spending a lot of money.

6. Why do nature-based solutions take time?

7. How do you think nature-based solutions help animals?

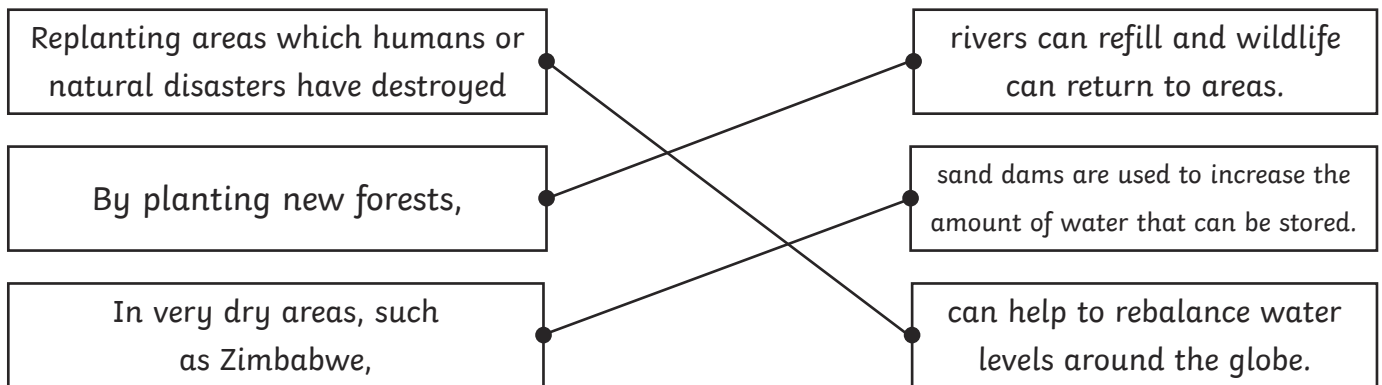
8. In your own words, give an example of a nature-based solution and its effects.

Answers

1. 'By altering nature, it is possible to help increase the amount of clean water available.'
What does the word altering mean? Tick one.

- ☐ leaving alone
☒ **changing**
☐ remaining the same
☐ ending

2. Draw lines to match the questions and answers.



3. Name two negative effects of water problems.

Accept any of: crops fail and people starve; farmers lose money meaning an area becomes poor; people have to drink polluted water and get ill; arguments start over who should receive food and water, meaning wars may start; death/fatalities.

4. Fill in the missing words from this sentence:

'This year's theme explores how **nature** can be used to help improve the **water challenges** facing many people around the world currently.'

5. Find and copy a phrase which tells you NBS won't involve spending a lot of money.

Accept: 'cost-effective' only

6. Why do nature-based solutions take time?

Accept any reasonable explanation linked to text, such as: Altering nature isn't always easy so it can take time to have an effect. Some of the solutions involve a lot of work, for example developing entire cities ('Sponge Cities') so this will take a very long time to achieve.

7. How do you think nature-based solutions help animals?

Accept any reasonable explanation linked to text, such as: By planting new forests, rivers can refill and wildlife can return to areas.

8. In your own words, give an example of a nature-based solution and its effects.

Child's own response (must be one of the five NBS and effects in their own words).