

# Bucket Relay

## Activity 6



**PURPOSE:** To illustrate the problems of lack of access to water. To create empathy for people who must deal with the difficulties of fetching water in a Southern country.

**TIME:** Approximately 30 minutes to an hour, depending on number of participants (allow at least 30 minutes to set up the obstacle course)

**MATERIALS:** Two medium-sized water containers (1.5-2 litres), two large measured water buckets (10 litres), materials for an obstacle course

### METHOD:

Set up an obstacle course with empty buckets at the beginning and full buckets at the end. The obstacle course can be as easy or as difficult as you want. If possible, make it represent the difficult terrain that many young people (especially girls) must cover to get water for their families. Students can be creative about how to represent these difficulties with common items found in the school/neighbourhood.

Divide the class into two or more teams. Explain that this is a relay race measured not by time, but by volume of water delivered to the large bucket at the end of the obstacle course.

Each student moves through the obstacle course with an empty container (smaller bucket). The student then fills the container from the water in the bucket at the end of the course. With the container held over

his/her head, the student moves back through the course. When the student returns to the line, he/she empties the water from the container into the empty bucket. Repeat for each student. After all the students have completed the course, measure the amount of water in the larger bucket and declare the winning team.

### Sample questions:

- If this was your only way to get water, how much energy would you have left to perform other tasks?
- Could you do this for six hours a day (without the help of your friends)?
- How much does water mean to you? Do you think we waste a lot of it here in Canada?
- How can we conserve water? (See "Waterlogged")

### Some ways to conserve water:

Don't leave the faucet running when you're washing the dishes or brushing your teeth.

Collect rainwater to water your lawn and the plants outside and inside.

Don't flush tissues, gum wrappers, etc. in the toilet. Flushing your toilet uses a lot of water.

If you want a glass of cold water, don't let the tap run until the water is cold. Keep a jug of cold water in the fridge instead. Can students think of any other ways to conserve water?



**THREE PERCENT OF WATER ON EARTH IS FRESH WATER. HOWEVER, ONLY 0.003 PERCENT OF THIS AMOUNT CAN BE USED BY PEOPLE OR ANIMALS.**

