

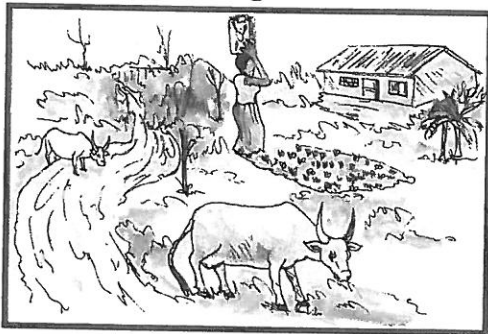
## UNIT1: IMPORTANCE OF WATER

### Why is water an important natural resource in life?

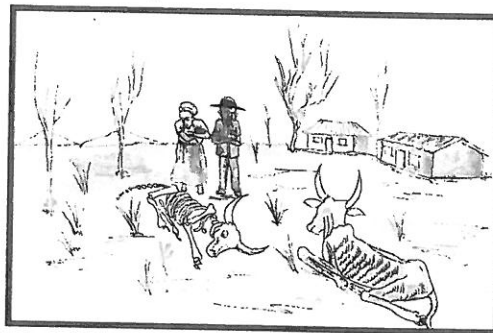
Water is a natural resource and a basic need in the life of human beings, animals, plants and the general eco-system (environment). Water covers about 70% of the earth and makes up about 80% of the human body. In a cool climate, the body needs 2.2 litres of water a day just to function normally. In a hot climate, the body needs 9 litres of water, such that a person keeps moving normally. This means that water is a precious and essential resource that needs to be valued and conserved. Water supports all life forms. All living things (plants, animals, human beings, insects, birds, fish, bacteria etc.) can not survive with out water. This means that water is life.

Study and discuss the pictures below and answer the questions that follow.

Gifted by Enough Water



Scarcity of Water



1.

### Guiding Questions.

1. What do you see in picture 1 and 2?
2. How are the plants and animals in the picture 2 different from that of picture 1? Why?
3. What is wrong with the people and animals in picture 2? What do you think caused this?
4. What can be done to improve what has happened in picture 2?
5. If you wake up and find that there is no water any where, in the lakes, rivers, wells and taps are dry, what do you think would happen?
6. Imagine a situation where the rain doesn't fall in your area for one year or more. What do you think would happen?
7. What would our lives be with out water?

## A STORY OF KASHARI AND NYABUSHOZI COUNTIES IN MBARARA DISTRICT.

In 1998 /1999, in Nyabushozi and Kashari counties, Mbarara district, there was prolonged drought where almost all water sources including wells, dams, and springs dried up and as a result, animals (cows, goats, sheep and birds) got starved while many others died.

Many plantations of bananas, coffee, cassava vegetables and other cereal crops dried up. People got starved, others died while the rest started migrating with their animals to other areas in search for pasture and water (nomadic pastoralism). People were forced to sell off their cows at low and give away prices to people from other less affected areas in order to get rid of the dying animals as well as to get money to buy food for survival. This prolonged drought was experienced countrywide like Karamoja region in the North-Eastern part of Uganda, people, animals and plants suffered as well.

### **QUESTIONS ABOUT THE STORY**

1. *What were the problems faced by the people of Kashari and Nyabushozi counties as a result of the prolonged drought?*
2. *What caused the problems they faced?*
3. *Have you ever seen such a thing happening in your area? Write about it in 2 sentences.*
5. *What can be done to avoid such a situation in your area?*

### **Key messages in the story**

- Without water, there is hunger, worry and death.
- Water is important to all living things (animals, plants and people in their environment). These form an ecosystem.
- Human beings, animals, plants in the ecosystem can not live without water
- The value of water cannot be replaced by anything. Water is life.

### **Activity 1.1.**

#### **Do this activity.**

- Plant a flower or a fruit in a tin or a-bucket or any container and
- keep watering to make it grow fast.
- After three months, when it has grown, stop watering it for a week.
- Observe what happens to it.

## A conversation on water.

Mary: Good morning Sarah?

Sarah: Good morning Mary.

Mary: Have you seen Anne this morning?

Sarah: No! But her sister Agnes told me that she had gone to collect water.

Mary: Where do people in your village fetch water?

Sarah: From a borehole in the next village.

Mary: Is it not tiresome to walk all that distance to collect water?

Sarah: Yes indeed! But it is the nearest source of water to our village.

Mary: Government should teach people how to utilize and use rain water.

Questions about the conversation.

1) where does Anne collect water from?

2) what are other sources of water in your community?

## 3.1: CONTAINERS USED IN COLLECTING WATER.

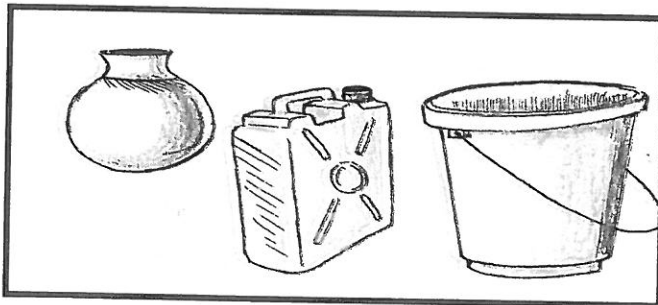
Water is collected using the following utensils;

Jerrycans

Buckets

Pots

Saucepans.



## 3.2: TRANSPORTATION OF WATER.

Water is transported using the following;

-Vehicles

-wheelbarrows

-Animals such as donkeys, camels and oxen.

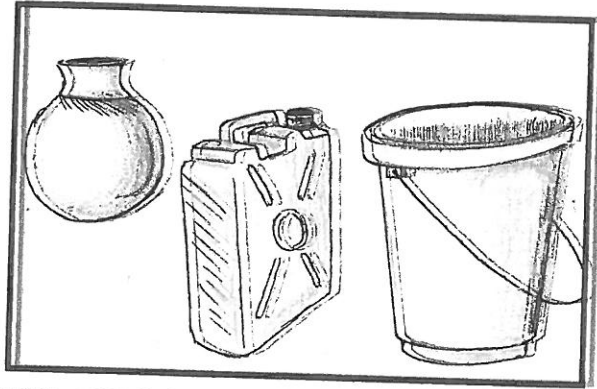
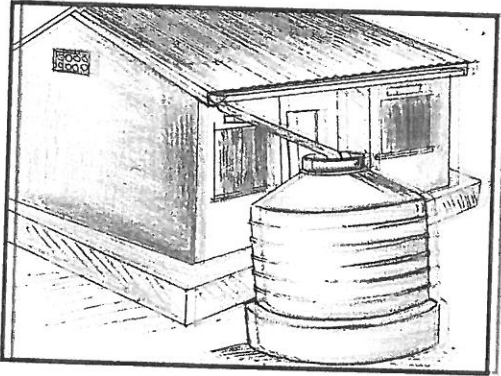
-Head or hands.

-Bicycles.

### 3.3: STORAGE OF WATER.

Water is stored in containers such as;

- Jerrycans
- Water pots .
- Buckets
- Drums
- Tanks(plastic,metallic or concrete).



### 3.3: HOW TO CARE FOR WATER AT HOME OR SCHOOL.

Water is cared for in the following ways;

- Washing the storage utensils with water.
- Drying the utensils under the sun.
- Keeping water in containers such as a buckets, water pots or sauce-pans and covering them.

### A STORY ABOUT WATER

Read the story below.

James a primary four pupil at Kent Primary School goes to school every morning. He fetches water before going to school. He sometimes uses a bucket or a jerrycan to fetch water.

He uses a bicycle when he is to fetch water using a jerrycan. At times when the bicycle is not in good condition, he uses a bucket to carry water on his head.

### Questions about the story.

- 1)Which containers does John use to fetch water? What other containers do you use to fetch water at home?
- 2)List the means of transport used by John to carry water home. Give the other means that you know.