Year 7 science and geography
Designing a Waterwise poster

Australian Curriculum links:
Year 7 Science
Some of Earth's resources are renewable, including water that cycles through the environment, but others are non-renewable (ACSSU116)
Year 7 Geography
The nature of water scarcity and ways of overcoming it, including studies drawn from Australia and West Asia and/or North Africa (ACHGK040)
Sustainability cross-curriculum priority

In this lesson sequence, students design a Waterwise poster with an appropriate water-efficient message. Alternatively, the poster could highlight the importance of putting the right materials down the toilet or drain. It is best used as a culminating activity following activities such as conducting a home or school water audit, a guest visit from the local Council water educator or an excursion to your local water treatment plant. This poster can be displayed at school or in the community and could be used as an assessment item.

Equipment

For the class

- an enlarged copy of a poster to evaluate, such as Bucket loads of savings poster (online or hardcopy) from the Queensland Government
- an enlarged copy of Whizzy's new adventures: Journey through the pipes book
- an enlarged copy of the 'Poster evaluation sheet' (resource 1)

For each student

- one copy of the 'Poster evaluation sheet' (resource 1)
- one sheet of A4 paper for planning the poster
- one A3 sheet of paper or large piece of butcher's paper for the poster
- art supplies

Preparation

Locate the:

- Be waterwise: make a difference today video
- Whizzy's new adventures: Journey through the pipes book
- Bucket loads of savings poster (online or hardcopy) and the Guidelines for use for this poster. Choose the appropriate classroom activities for your needs.

Lesson steps

1. Show the 'Be Waterwise: make a difference today' video. Discuss why it is important to use water efficiently. While water is generally considered to be a renewable

resource, it can be replenished over time periods ranging from years to decades to millions of years (in the case of large aquifers) and must be used sustainably at local, regional and global scales.

2. Explain that students will design a poster to get people to do the right thing and save water.

3. Ask students to think about other posters that they've seen. Show the 'Bucket loads of savings' poster and compare it with the poster on the back page of [Whizzy's new adventures: Journey through the pipes](#) book. Discuss how to use the 'Poster evaluation sheet' (resource 1) to evaluate each poster.

4. Students search online for other examples of Waterwise posters using search terms such as 'water saving posters' or 'don't flush wipes'.

5. For each poster, ask students to record their responses to each poster in their journal using questions such as:

   - What did you like about the poster?

   - How did the poster get the right message or information across?

   - What was it about the poster that grabbed your attention?

6. When designing their own Waterwise poster, students need to consider:

   - What do you want to say?

   - Who are you trying to say it to? (e.g. everyone, adults only, children only)

   - Are you going to focus on just one action or a few actions or lots or actions … or something else?

7. Using just a few words, students choose a catchy phrase or make up a message of their poster and think about how they will show this in the poster.

8. On a piece of paper, students plan their poster and sketch some initial ideas. Explain that they can change ideas and move things around as they plan. The poster must have:

   - a phrase or message (this can be in an indigenous language if they wish)

   - a picture that helps tell your story.

9. Once the plans are completed and checked, students create their poster using the art materials available.

10. Ask students to evaluate their posters using the 'Poster evaluation sheet' (resource 1) and write a reflection in their journal.

Resource 1 Poster evaluation sheet

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Name:		Date:

Title of poster

Main idea of poster

	Parts of a poster	Ratings (please tick the best match)		
		Yes	Partly	No
Design	Text: Text can easily be read from 2 metres.			
Design	Image: Images clearly express the main idea for the poster.			
Design	Space: Text and images stand out and are arranged in a balanced way on the page.			
Content	Information: 1. The information used is important. 2. Text and images express an idea and purpose. 3. Text and images suit a particular audience			

Comments:

Name:		Date:

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	Parts of a poster	Ratings (please tick the best match)		
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Comments: