

HOW CAN I CELEBRATE WORLD TOILET DAY IN MY CLASSROOM?



For the 2021-2022 school year, EduDeo invites Canadian Christian schools to promote girls' education by supporting our annual school campaign, "[The Education Formula: Multiply Her Effect](#)". We're raising funds for girls' washrooms and dormitories in Zambia, allowing girls to stay safe and healthy while they're at school.

One way you can raise awareness about the need for sanitation and hygiene – especially for girls – is by celebrating World Toilet Day on November 19th. Learn more by reading the following excerpt from The Global Citizen's article, "[World Toilet Day: A Crash Course on the Importance of Sanitation](#)".

"Around the globe, safe sanitation contributes to longer life expectancies, positive health outcomes, fewer infectious diseases, and increased access to rights and opportunities for women. World Toilet Day was originally instituted by the World Toilet Organization in 2001 to raise awareness about the need for safe sanitation and to urge governments and NGOs to construct more toilets.

Twelve years later, the United Nations officially designated November 19 as World Toilet Day after 122 countries, led by Singapore, signed on to the initiative. Fatal illnesses like typhoid fever, dysentery, cholera, and hepatitis A are all spread when fecal particles enter drinking water. Open defecation only increases the likelihood that feces will contaminate water — especially for the 159 million people who rely on surface water, like streams, for their drinking supply.

A lack of toilets, along with a shortage of menstrual hygiene products, also keeps girls from getting an education. Throughout the developing world, girls stay home from school or drop-out altogether when they are on their period because of menstruation taboos, difficulty getting menstrual products, and insufficient sanitation systems. In countries where menstruation stigma is strong, a lack of separate toilets for boys and girls means that girls do not have a place to safely, and privately, change and dispose of pads.

But it's not just the stigma of periods that girls have to worry about. The "poo taboo" can also make girls feel ashamed to perform the totally natural acts of peeing or pooping, especially when they have to leave school to relieve themselves outside or near their home. That's why toilets help make girls, women, and society safe and successful."



So, what can you do? Below is a list of resources to learn more and ideas for how you and your students can raise awareness about the need for sanitation and hygiene, especially for girls.

RESOURCES:

WHAT IS WORLD TOILET DAY?:

- ▶ The official [World Toilet Day](#) site
- ▶ A quick fact sheet with all the basics about [World Toilet Day 2021](#).

THE PROBLEM:

- ▶ Watch [World Toilet Day – where you go, matters](#), an animated video with a simple message about how toilets have improved health and saved millions of lives.
- ▶ Watch [Why The Lack of Toilets Is Killing Millions](#) to learn the effects of open defecation.

WHY ARE GIRLS SPECIFICALLY AFFECTED?

- ▶ Read [Breaking the Taboo: How School WASH Impacts Girls' Education](#), an article about how Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) programs are keeping Zambian children – especially girls – in school.

THE SOLUTIONS:

- ▶ Watch [Bill Gates talks toilets](#) where Bill shares images of what some toilets in the majority world look like and explains how unprocessed waste causes diarrheal disease. In 2011, his team challenged scientists around the world to invent a way of taking waste and processing locally through the Reinvent the Toilet Challenge.
 - ▶ Then check out the 10-year update by watching [this](#).
 - ▶ Learn more about what it takes for women and girls to have healthy and safe access to sanitation facilities by reading [Female-friendly public and community toilets: a guide for planners and decision makers](#).
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THE IMPACT:

- ▶ [Three head teachers describe the changes they have witnessed at their schools](#) and surrounding communities since SPLASH (a USAID/ Zambia-supported WASHplus activity) installed new latrines, water points, and changed attitudes about hygiene.

WHAT ABOUT ZAMBIA?:

- ▶ Learn how teachers in Zambia are encouraged to teach their students about sanitation by skimming through [A teacher's guide for integrating WASH in Zambian schools](#).
- ▶ Read [Bathrooms and Girls' Education in Africa](#) which outlines how factors like infrastructure and schools are equally as important as access to sanitary products to solve period poverty and keep girls in school.
- ▶ Use this [complete and detailed lesson plan with links](#) to all necessary resources to teach students about water and sanitation from the perspective of Tikho, a young girl from Zambia.

HOW IS EDUDEO'S ANNUAL SCHOOL CAMPAIGN SUPPORTING PARTNERS IN ZAMBIA TO KEEP GIRLS IN SCHOOL?:

- ▶ "The Education Formula: Multiply Her Effect" [official page](#)
- ▶ "The Education Formula: Multiply Her Effect" [promotional video](#)



SUBJECT-SPECIFIC RESOURCES AND CLASSROOM ACTIVITY IDEAS:

SCIENCE

- ▶ Thomas the tank engine describes the importance of water to young children in this video, [Thomas & Friends on Clean Water and Sanitation](#).
- ▶ Learn about how the [Waterless Toilet of the Future](#) works, a project funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.
- ▶ Listen to Rose George's TED talk, [Let's talk crap. Seriously](#), where she speaks about the importance of toilets for solving diarrhea – something that causes people to giggle in North America but causes millions of deaths in the majority world. Can we actually use our feces for good? Check it out! (Warning: some language.)

LANGUAGE ARTS

- ▶ Write a letter to thank sanitation workers in your region. Find an example of a pdf worksheet [here](#).

MATH

- ▶ How can you use math and statistics to choose a public toilet? Watch this video: ["Mathematical Way to Choose a Toilet"](#) by Numberphile.

DRAMA

- ▶ Use drama to bring a message people will listen to like [Mevi](#) who teaches communities about the importance of clean water and good hygiene.

ART

- ▶ Determine which poster has the stickiest message! Allow students 30 seconds to examine [each of the following posters](#). Then ask them which one they remember and why. Use this information to make your own posters.
- ▶ Design an art installation to bring awareness about the sanitation crisis. See example using toilets [here](#) or toilet paper [here](#). Other art installations used to bring awareness about other issues can be found [here](#) or [here](#).

MUSIC

- ▶ Sing and learn about the importance of keeping the environment clean, with [this catchy tune](#) from Ubongo Kids (first minute and 14 seconds only). As Africa's leading "edutainment" company, Ubongo Kids create fun, localized and multi-platform educational media that reaches millions of families through accessible technologies.
- ▶ Listen to this [World Toilet Day song](#) sung by Louie the Loo for WaterAid. Challenge your students to write their own parody of a well-known song!

SOCIAL STUDIES / GEOGRAPHY

- ▶ Practice reading and finding patterns in graphs and maps by using data about sanitation found [here](#).
- ▶ Use [Dollar Street](#), (a website by Gapminder dedicated to allowing people to see for themselves what life looks like on different income levels, without travelling) to compare toilets in family homes around the world.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

- ▶ Play Toilet Tag, an old classic with a new twist. Demonstration and instructions can be found [here](#).
- ▶ Challenge your students to complete this [Fitness Challenge](#).

HISTORY

- ▶ Explore the history of the toilet and how waste management has evolved from ancient Mesopotamia to modern day by watching ["A brief history of toilets"](#) by TED-Ed.
- ▶ Across the world, and throughout history, different peoples have developed different ways to deal with their own waste. And while they didn't always nail the design, their efforts to keep themselves safe have led to the thrones and sanitation systems we know and love today. Learn more by watching [6 Toilets From History, and What They Taught Us](#).