

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

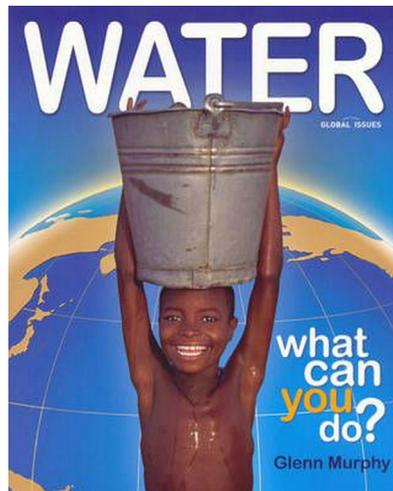
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Murphy, G. (2009). *Water: what can you do?*. Scoresby, Vic: Five Mile.



Water inequality

About 40 percent of the world's 6 billion people do not have access to clean water and proper sanitation, or clean, germ-free living conditions. Large populations, poor sanitation, pollution, and disease can make freshwater difficult to find. Lack of water is the leading cause of death in the developing world.

Basic needs

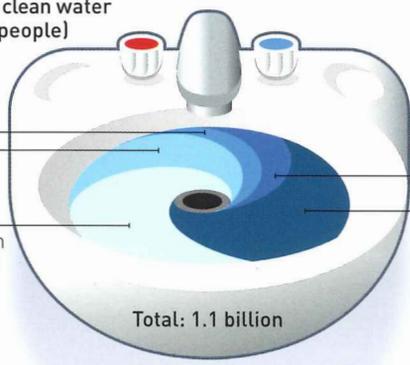
Millions of people do not have clean drinking water and proper sanitation. The graphs show where these people live.

No access to clean water
(millions of people)

Arab States:
37.7

South Asia:
228.8

Sub-Saharan
Africa: 314.0



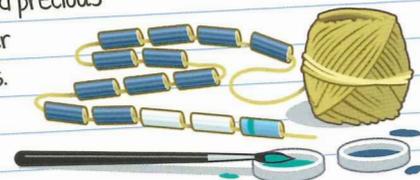
Latin America
and Caribbean:
49.4

East Asia and
the Pacific:
406.2

TRY THIS AT HOME

MAKE A MODEL OF THE WORLD'S WATER RESOURCES

- 1 Get a packet of ziti pasta and count out 100 pieces.
- 2 Paint 97 pieces dark blue. These represent salt water.
- 3 Paint two pieces white and write ICE on them.
- 4 Paint the last piece pale blue, write GROUNDWATER on it, then paint a thin line of turquoise across the bottom. This represents all the available freshwater on Earth!
- 5 String all 100 pieces into a necklace.
- 6 Hang the necklace near a map to remind you of how rare and precious our freshwater supply really is.



No access
to sanitation
(millions of people)

Latin America and
Caribbean: 119.4

Arab States: 80.1

Sub-Saharan
Africa: 436.7

South Asia:
925.9

East Asia
and the
Pacific:
958.2

Total: 2.6 billion



Water to spare Many rich, developed countries have the luxury of huge water supplies, brought to their homes by expensive technology. These countries have so much clean water that they use it to wash cars or water gardens and golf courses.



Little to share Clean water can be hard to find in many developing countries. Their people, such as these children in Delhi, India, are forced to drink and wash in water from contaminated rivers and wells.



Water-related killers

- 1 Diarrheal diseases**
Caused by bacteria that live in contaminated water, these diseases kill 2 to 5 million people each year.
- 2 Schistosomiasis** Every year, this painful disease causes 200,000 deaths.
- 3 Helminths** Gut worms infect people in crowded, unsanitary conditions and kill thousands per year.
- 4 Hepatitis A and E** Liver diseases caught from contaminated food and water can be fatal.
- 5 Trachoma** Six million people are blind because of this eye infection.

Trash flow In crowded countries such as Indonesia, pollution makes water-shortage problems even worse.

Where is the world's freshwater?

