

Autumn 2025: Ethiopia Water tanks

World Gifts: Water for a family (£35), Water bundle (£350) Community Water Supply (£750)

Themes: Subsidiarity, Back to School, World Gifts, Ethiopia,

Time: 15 minutes

Learning outcomes: That all students understand why listening to our brothers and sisters around the world helps build a better world.




Hello everyone and welcome to the Autumn term assembly from CAFOD.




CAFOD is the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development. They are the official aid agency of the Bishops' Conference and a member of Caritas Internationalis, one of the largest aid agencies in the world. Every year Caritas works with 1.3 billion people around the world, of all faiths and none. They pride themselves on being there before, during and after an emergency. However, the global reach is only made possible because of the local experts. We'll be talking more about that bit today!




Who got a new water bottle ready for the start of term? I wonder what Top Trumps rating your water bottle would score. These water bottles hold differing amounts of water so slightly different scorings for capacity. However, some are not very practical because they are very big so you have to carry it around and with an open straw, they'd lose water through evaporation.






Water storage Top Trumps




Practicality: 20
Storage capacity: 30
Evaporation resistance: 30
Overall CAFOD score: 23

Practicality: 70
Storage capacity: 113
Evaporation resistance: 100
Overall CAFOD score: 78

What about other water storage options? Who has a garden water butt? Very practical and does not leak. Finally, a camel! A camel does store water – but not in their humps as you might have heard but in their bloodstream. The camel got an overall score of 78 which made the camel the winner on a number of categories. It was all going so well for the camel until we heard about CAFOD’s water tank project in Ethiopia.





CAFOD project Water tank Ethiopia

Practicality: 100
Storage capacity: 150,000
Evaporation resistance: 98
Overall rating:
HYDRATION HERO!

This water tank can hold over 150,000 litres of water, more than any of these other options. It’s also incredibly practical, especially for the community in Ethiopia that rely on this water tank for periods of drought due to adverse climate-change related weather. It really is the hydration hero so CAFOD would love our help this term to raise money for more water tanks like this.




Ethiopia is a very large country in Africa. It has the second fastest growing population in Africa with 113.6 million people and their capital city is Addis Ababa.

Ethiopia: Country Profile







Ethiopia has the second largest population in Africa with 113.6 million people living in the country.



Ethiopia's President is called Taye Astike Selassie, he replaced the first female President in 2024.



According to the World Bank 70% of the population work in agriculture.



The unpredictable weather in Ethiopia means food security is a challenge. The World Bank estimated this affected 20 million people in 2023.



Capital city: Addis Ababa



Borana, southern Ethiopia

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In 2024 their new President (Taye Atske Selassie) replaced the first female President (Sahle-Work Zewde). 70% of the population are involved in agriculture so water is incredibly important. Unfortunately, climate change related issues have affected 20 million people in Ethiopia.



Harvest Appeal

CAFOD A better world needs all of us

Let's watch a video to find out more. We'd love to introduce you to CAFOD partners who made this water-tank project happen, Abbiott and Adi. Watch carefully and I'm hoping I can see if any of you can tell me what roles they held in the project.

(Please note: There are four hidden picture slides which can be used if there are any issues with sound/visuals.)



Who can tell me what Abbiott did? (Answer climate change officer). What role did Adi have (Answer: Community lead).

CAFOD believe in subsidiarity. This means we listen to the voices of our brothers and sisters. Abbiott is the expert. He understands the issues the specific community face. With Abbiott's knowledge and Adi's leadership this water tank project is having such a positive impact and giving the community such hope.

CLICK – Bible verse appears.

The prophet Amos writes some beautiful poems in Amos chapter 5, where he declares that justice would roll down like waters, and righteousness like a stream. Do you notice how he's used the image of water in two ways? Water can be both powerful as it rushes down and also gentle, as it trickles down in streams. When we speak of injustice we want God to come in power to wash it all away, and when we speak of hope and righteousness, it is gentle, like lots of little streams providing daily water through the wilderness. We need both!



Abbiott told us that he would like to build more water tanks across the area he's responsible for. CAFOD knows that a better world really does need all of us so they are hoping you might consider helping them raise more money for water tanks this term so Abbiott and others in similar roles can help even more people experiencing drought.

<p><i>Leader: Your Spirit hovered over the waters at the dawn of all creation. May the Spirit now inspire us to change; to respect and protect your world.</i></p> <p><i>All: God of life, let waters flow and wash away injustice.</i></p> 	<p>Let's pray now as we give thanks for the gift of water. The last line in this prayer links back to the Jubilee, which of course, still continues this academic year. When we get to that final line where we pledge to wash away injustice, I'd like us to think about all the things we've done last year and all the things we will do this year as Pilgrims of Hope.</p> <p><i>Your Spirit hovered over the waters at the dawn of all creation.</i> <i>May the Spirit now inspire us to change; to respect and protect your world.</i> <i>All: God of life, let waters flow and wash away injustice.</i></p>
<p><i>Leader: Your people face new challenges as the climate changes around them. May they find the strength to adapt; to seek water and new ways of living.</i></p> <p><i>All: God of life, let waters flow and wash away injustice.</i></p> 	<p>Your people face new challenges as the climate changes around them. May they find the strength to adapt; to seek water and new ways of living.</p> <p><i>All: God of life, let waters flow and wash away injustice.</i></p>
<p><i>Leader: We long for life-giving water for all and pledge to wash away injustice. May your people be filled with hope and have the chance to flourish.</i></p> <p><i>All: God of life, let waters flow and wash away injustice.</i></p> 	<p><i>We long for life-giving water for all and pledge to wash away injustice. May your people be filled with hope and have the chance to flourish.</i></p> <p><i>All: God of life, let waters flow and wash away injustice.</i></p>