



# Wish Them Well

*Lesson Plan for Elementary Grades (K-5)*

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## OVERVIEW & PURPOSE

The purpose of this lesson is for students to become familiar with the story of how and why Wish Them Well was created.

## OBJECTIVES

1. Students will understand that millions of people do not have access to clean water.
2. Students will be able to explain how fresh water wells provide a solution to villages who do not have access to clean water.
3. Students will be able to identify ways they can help others.

## MATERIALS NEEDED

1. *The Story of Wish Them Well*
2. *The Story of Wish Them Well Coloring Book Companion*
3. *Two clear glasses filled with water, one filled with few spoonfuls of dirt/soil*
4. *Optional: Map of Africa for students to view*

## IGNITE CURIOSITY

1. Invite students to turn and talk to a partner and respond to this prompt: “With your partner, list all the things you do in one day that require you to use water.”
2. Invite a few partners to share. (Possible answers: wash hands, shower, drink it, wash dishes, etc.)
3. Hold up both glasses of water to the class and ask students if they should drink the water that is dirty.
4. Invite the class to discuss what it would be like if they had to use the dirty water for all the activities they identified earlier.
5. Explain to students that many people all around the world especially in countries in Africa do not have access to clean water and must use and drink water that looks like the water in the glass.

## GROUP ACTIVITY

Read aloud *The Story of Wish Them Well* to the class. Guide the class through your own discussion questions or use the following:

Why do people get sick from drinking the water in Togo?

Why do women have to walk for hours to get water?

How can villages in Togo get clean, fresh water?

How can we continue to help save lives in Togo?

## INVITE CONNECTIONS

1. Invite students to color, draw, doodle, and/or add captions to *The Story of Wish Them Well* Coloring Book Companion.
2. Invite older students to partner with a younger student to complete the coloring book together.
3. Encourage students to share their coloring book with their family and friends.

## EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

### Geography:

Invite students to learn more about Africa and Togo by labeling and coloring a free printable outline map of Africa. <https://www.yourchildlearns.com/megamaps/print-africa-maps.html>

### Science:

Invite students build their own well:

Primary video: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dkk\\_YbB139E](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dkk_YbB139E)

Encourage students to learn more about the world water supply:

<https://www.brainpop.com/science/earthsystem/watersupply/>

### Physical Education:

Invite students to experience what it is like to walk with water! Bring in several gallon jugs of water. Go to the playground, track, or bus circle. Ask students to walk a lap carrying the jug. Ask students to imagine what it would be like to walk with that jug for an hour or even three hours!

### Service Learning:

Encourage students to brainstorm ways they could bring awareness to others about the need for clean drinking water. Consider hosting your own 'Water Walk' or class fundraiser to support Wish Them Well.

Have questions about this lesson? Send inquiries to: [info@wissthemwelltogo.org](mailto:info@wissthemwelltogo.org)

*Tiffany Dillon graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in mass communication from James Madison University and a Master of Education degree in curriculum, instruction, and technology from Temple University. She spent over two decades teaching elementary and middle school students in Bucks County, PA. Currently, she is a coach, consultant, and curriculum writer for Franklin Covey Education. Her passion is helping all students see their limitless worth and potential and use their voice to make positive change.*