

Water Boundary

Materials for Activity

- A shallow pan, filled with water
- A sheet of plain paper, a marker and a pair of scissors

Preparation for Activity

- Plan how you will form two groups. The groups do not have to be equal in number. If possible, make the number of "landowners" divisible by four.
- Place the pan of water in the middle of a table.
- On another table or surface, place the paper, the marker and the scissors.

Description of Activity

Form the family into two groups. Tell one group they are "water owners" and gather them around the table that has the pan of water. Tell the other group they are "landowners" and gather them around the table that has the paper.

Ask the two groups to share their resource equally so each owner gets a fair share. Do not give any further instruction.

Give the groups just a few minutes. Then, process the activity with these questions.

- How did the "landowners" divide the land? Was it easy? Why or why not?
- How did the "water owners" divide the water? Was it easy? Why or why not?
- Does everyone need to own land to survive? How about access to land? Why?
- Does everyone need to own water to survive? How about access to water? Why?
- Why do you think people try to own water?

Explain that in many parts of the world, there are struggles happening about this very issue. People do not have free and unrestricted access to the water they need. Part of the problem is that countries or communities direct the flow of fresh water to keep more of it for themselves. Part of the problem is corporations that take water that flows through land they own, and put it in bottles to sell.

Ask:

- What if someone owns land and the land has water on it? Does that person own the water? Should that person allow others to come and get that water if they need it?