WORLD WATER DAY

SERVICE LEARNING GUIDE

THERE IS A BALANCE OF WATER ACCESS, USE, AND DECAY. WHEN WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH KNOWLEDGE AND CONSUMPTION, WE CAN WITHER. BUT SIMULTANEOUSLY, IF WE ARE INUNDATED WITH WATER, IT CAN ALSO BE HARMFUL.

Personal

It is not your duty to complete the task, but neither are you free to desist from it.

• Reflecting on your personal water use - how much do you think about your water consumption? When washing hands? Showering/bathing? Drinking from the tap?

• Make a list of all the ways you might use water: Daily? Weekly? Monthly or less?

• How do you think about your personal relationship to water use and its impact on others? Does it matter?

Environmental

"When the Holy One created the first human, the Holy One took the human and led them round all the trees of the Garden of Eden and said to: "Look at My works, how beautiful and praiseworthy they are! And all that I have created, it is for you. Pay attention that you do not corrupt and destroy My world: for there will be no one to repair it after you." - Kohelet Rabbah 7:13

What do you make of your relationship to the natural world? Do you feel connected? Disconnected? Responsible? Why or why not?

How might you imagine water as a source that connects all living beings? How might you interpret the above idea as it relates to human water usage? Individual? Collective? Global?

Jewish

"Jewish thought understands both the earthly usage of water and its renewing effects on the soul. Each morning, we are commanded to wash our hands and recite the blessing Netilat Yadayim. Water stimulates the synapses in our brains to break between these realms. Washing our hands is the precise moment where we express our gratitude for our earthly physical existence, for the return of our soul to our body, and prepare ourselves to take responsibility for the gifts bestowed upon us."

- Rabbi Shmuly Yanklowitz, rabbi, activist, & author

• How can our minds transform an item that we use for many purposes, like water, into an aspect of ritual?

• How would our relationship to water change if we began viewing it as renewing our souls?

Systemic

"If [a corporation] can bottle unlimited amounts of our water for $400 a year, the cost isn't the water–the cost is the infrastructure. And how we ask communities to pay for infrastructure and whose infrastructure to pay for is the heart of the equity question."

- Abdul El-Sayed, M.D., epidemiologist, activist & former executive director of the Detroit Health Department

• Water that is not contained in a vessel, cannot be grasped. This text suggests that infrastructure is a type of 'vessel'. How would explain the challenge presented above as a 'vessel' or 'grasp' issue?

• What might an individual or community do to address the issue being raised?

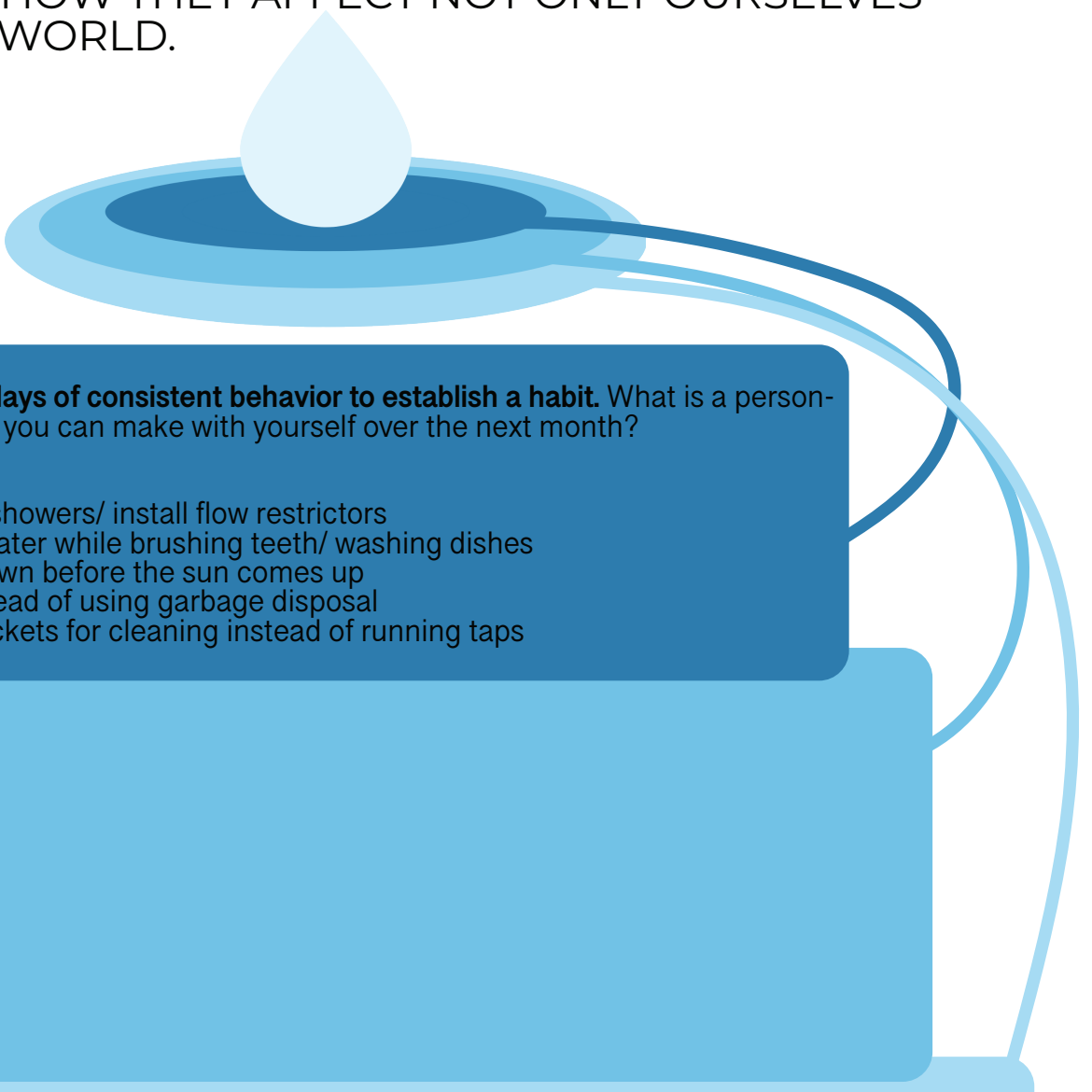
• How might we consider our role in addressing issues that we alone cannot solve?

REPAIR THE WORLD

WORLD WATER DAY

SERVICE LEARNING GUIDE

ALL WATER IN THE WORLD IS INTERCONNECTED THROUGH A CYCLICAL FLOW. WE HAVE AN OBLIGATION TO BE AWARE OF OUR ACTIONS AND HOW THEY AFFECT NOT ONLY OURSELVES BUT ALSO THE ENTIRE WORLD.



Personal

It can take 30 days of consistent behavior to establish a habit. What is a personal commitment you can make with yourself over the next month?

For example:
- Take shorter showers/ install flow restrictors
- Turn off the water while brushing teeth/ washing dishes
- Water your lawn before the sun comes up
- Compost instead of using garbage disposal
- Use water buckets for cleaning instead of running taps

Community

World

Did you know that the majority of countries share groundwater resources? There are close to 500 aquifers that are each accessed by more than one country, and 6 of the 8 largest aquifers are included!

Climate action response: While Repair focuses on direct service in our communities, many of our national partners like Dayenu are also working to create a shift in the national conversation around climate action. They offer actions you can commit to, as they work to avert the most harmful impacts of the climate crisis.

Reflection: What actions can you commit to in order to help avert the impacts of the climate crisis?

WATER RITUAL

Find a vessel in your home, maybe a glass or jar. Fill your vessel with water, not completely to the brim. This is your mayim chayim, your living water. Observe the water in your vessel; notice how still it gets when the water settles, slowly begin to move your glass, watch the waters shift and turn as you shift it's vessel, envision the ebb and flow of the tide. Listen to the sounds the water makes as it moves.

Now, imagine a waterfall as you slowly pour the water from your vessel into your hand, notice how much you can contain and how much spills over. This is your kos revaya, your overflowing cup. Your water is no longer being contained, it begins to flow outward. What if you could cup your hands together? Could you contain much more, or would the water continue to dissipate through your fingers? Where does the water go? The water may seem endless, but it begins to disappear. It no longer streams and pools, the remaining drops trickle out until you are left with an empty vessel.

In Tikkunei Zohar 78a we read: The person who gives justly reverses the course of the river flowing out of Eden, that it may [return to] water the Garden.

What causes something to cease from flowing? Think about when there is a limited supply of something (waterways dry up) or resources run out? In such cases, who is likely to be most affected? If we are unintentional with our relationship with water we might take advantage of the flow and divert it from others.