

Just Add Water: Flint, MI Watercolors

Objectives

- Students will explore the Flint, Michigan toxic water crisis and identify some causes of the crisis.
- Students will be able to tell the story of activist, Mona Hanna-Attisha, the pediatrician who first exposed the crisis.
- Students will create a list of all of the ways water is part of their lives.
- Students will create watercolor paintings of some of the things on their list.
- Students will identify colors seen in photos of actual water in people's homes and use these colors in their illustrations.

Grade Levels: 3rd-5th

Vocabulary and Terms

Lead, toxic

Resources

This [article](#) and this [one](#) on the advocacy of Dr. Mona.

Materials

Watercolor paper, skinny Sharpie, watercolor paint

Procedures

1. Print out grade-level friendly article on the Flint, MI water crisis for students to read. Students can highlight lines that help them identify events that led to the crisis.
2. Watch [video](#) of Dr. Mona's story.
3. Create class list of all the ways water is used in our everyday lives. EX: ice cube trays, shower, dishwasher, washing machine, cooking, toilets, etc.
4. Students choose 2-3 that they feel would most impact their lives if they didn't have. They will then illustrate these on small pieces of watercolor paper.
5. Show photos of the Flint water from homes and businesses. Ask students to come up with ways to describe the colors they see?
6. Recreate these colors using watercolor to paint illustrations.

