

## ***Civic Minds***

**Date:** Friday, March 17, 2017

**Print Replica Date:** Wednesday, March 8, 2017

**Article Title:** **WATER: PRIVATE COMMODITY OR HUMAN RIGHT? (Article 2)**

**Section:** Sports, C6

### **Learning Objectives**

- ✓ Students will examine water as a natural resource and whether it should be privatized.
- ✓ Students will learn that

### **CCSS Standards**

#### **Social Studies EALR 1: Civics**

The student understands and applies knowledge of government, law, politics, and the nation's fundamental documents to make decisions about local, national, and international issues and to demonstrate thoughtful, participatory citizenship.

#### **Social Studies EALR 3: Geography**

Understands the cultural universals of place, time, family life, economics, communication, arts, recreation, food, clothing, shelter, transportation, government, and education.

#### **Social Studies EALR 4: History**

- Analyzes the motives and interests behind an interpretation of a recent event.

#### **Social Studies EALR 5: Social Studies**

- Analyzes consequences of positions on an issue or event.
- Analyzes the short-term and long-term implications of decisions affecting the global community.

### **Vocabulary**

Look up the definitions for ***premise***. Please write the definition and create a new sentence, using your own words.

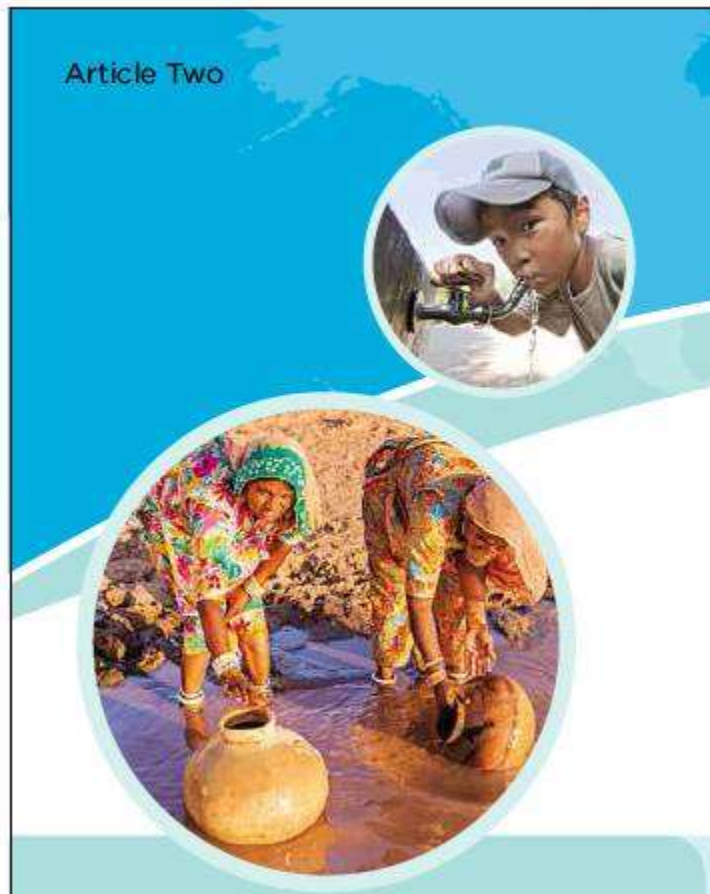
“Despite such recognition of water’s universal necessity, another trend complicates the ***premise*** of the basic human right to water”.

Premise definition:

New Sentence:

**Civic Minds Activity:** Take a moment to review today's print replica of *The Seattle Times*. Can you find a story that stands out to you regarding a global issue or someone that was inspired to help others?

**Pre-Reading Questions**



- What do you see in this picture?
- What are the feelings/emotions in this photo?
- Where do you think the ladies filling their pots with water are from? How did you come to that conclusion?
- How does geography impact water resources?
- Do you think about your access to water?
- What do you think the article will be about?

**Comprehension Questions:**

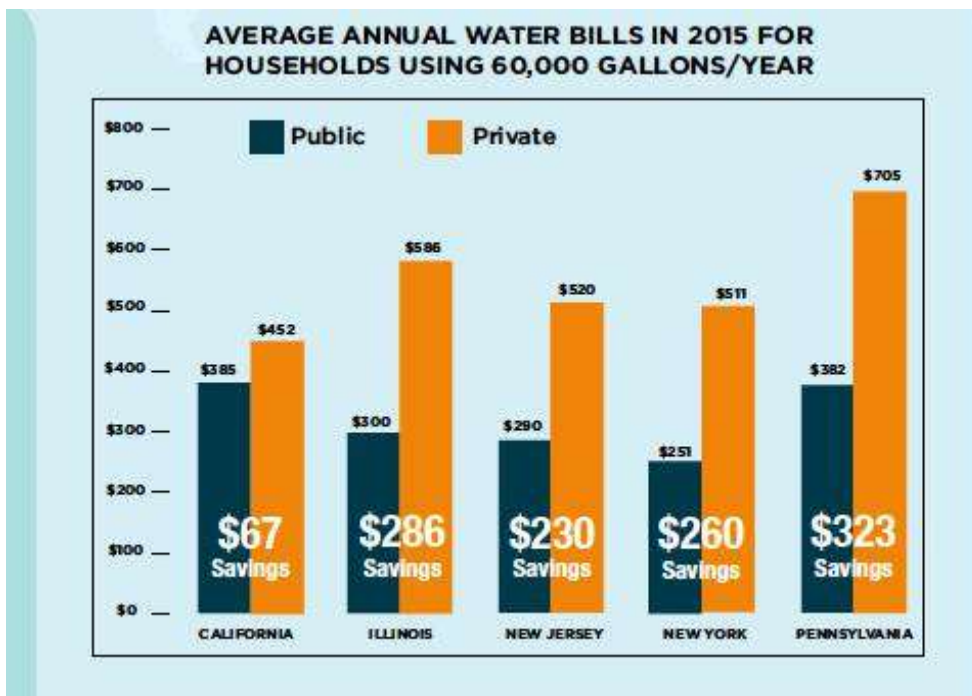
1. In 2010, the UN General Assembly recognized water as what? What does this mean for all the people living on the planet?
2. In 2015, the United Nations established 17 objectives known as the Sustainable Development Goals to address what three global issues?
3. What is Objective #6?

4. Despite such recognition of water's universal necessity, another trend complicates the premise of the basic human right to water. What is it?
5. What is Water Nationalization? Why isn't this not always successful?
6. What is Water Privatization? What are the pros and cons of this style of water management?
7. What three countries have successful privatization?
8. Most often, water management is mixed; private companies are contracted to manage aspects of the infrastructure and/or delivery, but ownership is \_\_\_\_\_.

**Class Discussion Questions or Journal/Essay Prompts:**

**What do you think the best way to handle water ownership is?**

**Why do you think there is so much corruption with companies that takeover the water supply?**



**Private companies profit off a public good—water. This raises concerns about the commodification of a human right.**

- Consider what you pay for water?
- Does this seem fair?
- What more efficient ways to deliver clean and affordable water to citizens for basic needs can you come up with?

## **Case Study: Privatization in Bolivia**

**In 1999, the government of Bolivia signed a contract with Aguas del Tunari, a subsidiary of U.S. corporation Bechtel, to handle water and sanitation services in the city of Cochabamba. Water bills for residents of Cochabamba doubled and in some cases tripled. An activist group called La Coordinadora led widespread protests throughout the city that eventually increased and expanded into rural areas around Cochabamba. In response, the Bolivian president declared a state of siege. Police used tear gas and live ammunition against protesters, resulting in many injuries, arrests, and several deaths. After months of protests, the government was forced to terminate its contract with Aguas del Tunari and give the organization of Cochabamba's water services to La Coordinadora. Unfortunately, La Coordinadora was not prepared for the victory and many were left without water for years following the protests.**

- What do you think about how water was privatized in Bolivia?
- How could it have been better organized between private and public ownership?

**Manila, in the Philippines, represents the largest number of beneficiaries served by private water firms in the developing world. The public-private model greatly expanded the number of people who had access to water in the Manila Metro area but when one of the firms went bankrupt, residents in Western Manila had virtually no control over their ability to access water.**

- What were the pros/cons of privatization in Manila?

**Civic Minds in The Seattle Times is posted to the Web on Friday. Please share the NIE program with other teachers. To sign-up for the print replica version of the newspaper please call 206/652-6290 or toll-free at 1-888/775-2655.**

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