

Springboard^{into} Comprehension 4

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Sequencing	Leading the Field in Green Camp Cavendish
Compare and Contrast	Crying Wolf Sun Tales
Fact and Opinion	This Ad's for You What Really Happened?
Cause and Effect	Water and Food Programs around the World Inventions and Discoveries That Changed the World
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Water and Food Programs Around the World



Written by Vaishali Batra

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Water and Food Programs Around the World

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Introduction

In many parts of the world, people suffer because they do not have access to clean water and enough food. Water is essential for people. They need water to drink, wash, and grow food for themselves and their livestock.

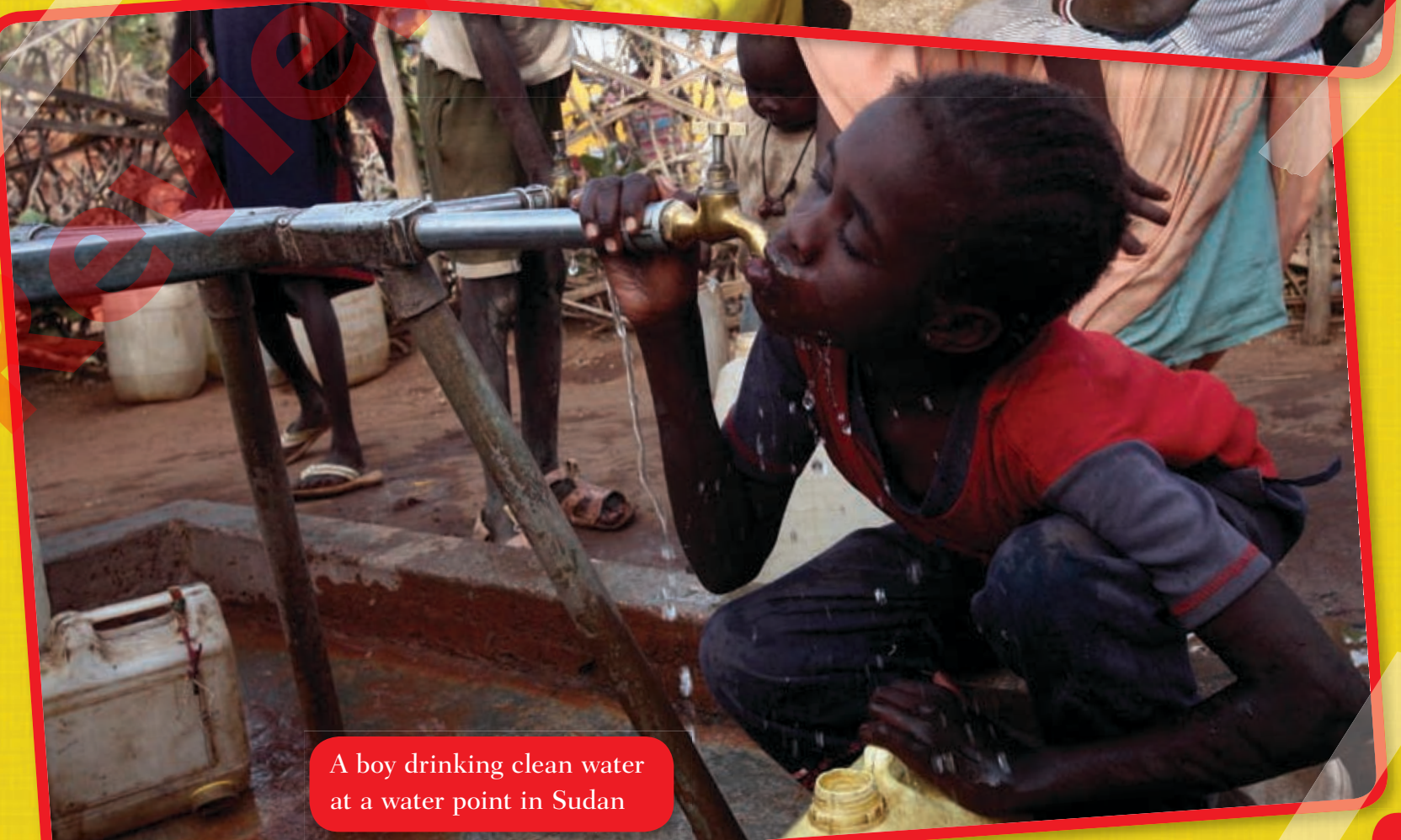
In many places, people have to walk long distances every day in search of water. It is often children who are sent to collect it. In some places, people have dug shallow wells. The water in the wells is often dirty because animals also drink from it.

In a drought, the wells dry up. This forces people to drink polluted water, causing many health problems. This results in thousands of deaths each year.

Aid agencies set up programs to help people by loaning them livestock, digging wells, and providing work or fast relief for starving children. Many programs encourage people to help themselves. Aid workers train the local population. The people are then able to make money from selling livestock, digging and maintaining better wells, or setting up small businesses. The training enables them to improve their own lives in the future.



Women and children collecting water from a hole dug in a dry riverbed in Uganda, Africa



A boy drinking clean water at a water point in Sudan

Goat Loan Project, Sudan

The Darfur region of Sudan has frequent droughts. The region is now a vast, dry environment because of the lack of rainfall. As a result, millions of people have little or no water.

Many people in Darfur travel from place to place with herds of cattle, camels, or sheep. They are **herders**. In a drought, these nomadic herders cannot find enough pasture for their animals. The animals die, so the herders are left without food or income. Other people are farmers. The drought causes their crops to fail. They are left with nothing to eat or sell. Consequently, people are forced to survive on very little food. They often starve.



Sudanese herders trying to find pasture for their herds to graze on



A woman tending crops in Darfur



Drought has seriously affected these Sudanese nomads.

A charity called Kids for Kids began a Goat Loan Project in Darfur. Its aim is to improve the lives of starving children. It is difficult for parents to provide their children with food and water because of the harsh drought. When children do not have enough food, they do not get the nutrients needed to grow properly. This is called **malnutrition**.

Kids for Kids lends six goats to a family for two years. Kids for Kids provides medicines and vaccines for the goats. Except for the medicines, the family takes care of the animals themselves. Goats cope well in dry climates, because when there is little else to eat, they graze on twigs and shrubs. They can survive with little water. The goats provide the family with milk. The milk gives the family protein, minerals, and vitamins. The family can sell any excess milk, so the goats provide them with income, as well.

Kids for Kids asks the family not to sell the goats. However, they can keep any kids that the goats have. After two years, the family passes on six kids to another family in need. Consequently, many families gain from the project.



This mother and child are looking after a herd of goats that began with goats from the Goat Loan Project.



Children with kids that are part of the Goat Loan Project

Impact on People's Lives

The Goat Loan Project has helped nearly 165,000 people in Darfur. Almost 40 villages have benefited from the project. In 2008, more than 400 families received goats as loans.

People in the villages are trained to run the project themselves. They have set up committees that manage the Goat Loan Project. Thanks to the training, they are now able to help themselves.

With the success of the Goat Loan Project, other projects have also begun. Kids for Kids is helping to set up water hand pumps, so children will not need to walk long distances for water.

Kids for Kids has planted around 80,000 tree seedlings in the villages. It encourages families to water and tend the plants. When the trees grow, they help hold the soil together. They prevent the soil from drying out. By helping entire families in Darfur, Kids for Kids is helping improve the lives of the children there.