

## Grade 8 Social Sciences Worksheet

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### Water supply in South Africa

Read the newspaper article below and answer the questions:

*“2010 Vision for Water”: Water for all?*

*Many people in South Africa walk, sometimes for as long as four hours a day, to fetch water for their families.*

*Few people would argue that safe water and hygienic sanitation are basic human rights. Yet in the past, the needs of South Africa’s rural population, in particular, have been largely ignored. Today an estimated two million households do not have access to safe water. This is about 12 million people. The goal of the Government is to provide clean water to every person in the country, at a rate of at least 25 litres per person per day, within 200 metres of where they live. The time frame for this goal is only five years.*

*Professor Kader Asmal has committed the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry to redirect its resources to provide community water. This will help to create jobs and stimulate the rural economy.*

- 1.1 How many households in South Africa do not have access to clean water? [1]
- 1.2 What is our Government planning to do about this problem? [2]
2. Explain the meaning of the underlined words or phrases. [2 x 3 = 6]

Study the table below and answer the following questions:

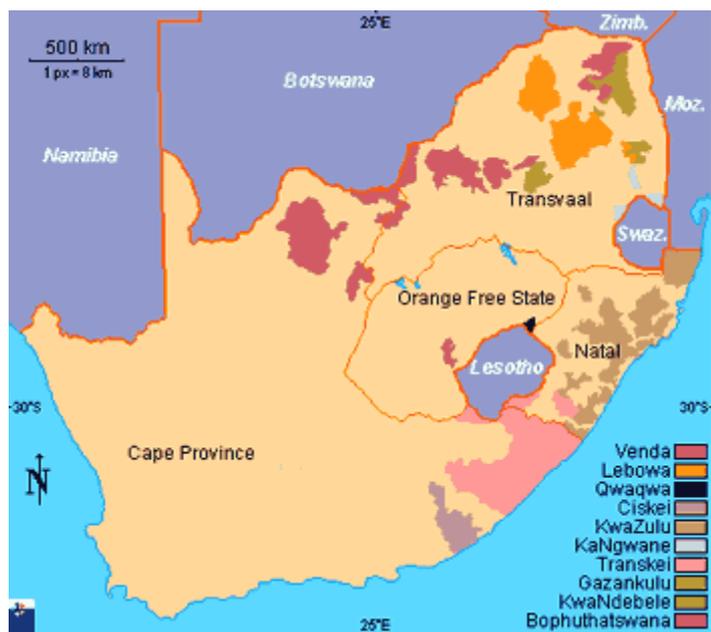
3. Convert the figures in the table into percentages, as follows: [3]  
$$\frac{\text{Number of households in category}}{\text{Total number of households}} \times 100 = \text{category \%}$$
- 4.1 How is your household supplied with water? [1]
- 4.2 Which type of water supply is provided to the most households? [1]
- 4.3 What is the total percentage of households who receive piped water? [2]

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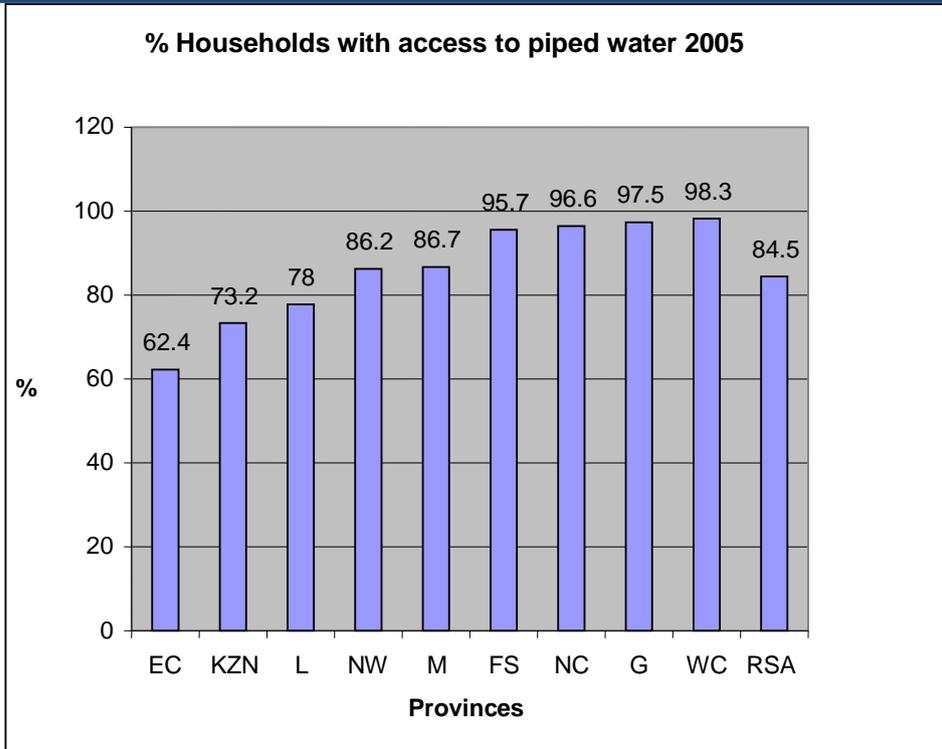
Water supply	Number of households	Percentage of households
Piped water in dwelling	3 617 603	
Piped water inside yard	3 253 861	
Piped water on community stand: Less than 200 metres away	1 202 276	
More than 200 metres away	1 392 628	
Borehole	270 882	
Spring	210 444	
Rainwater tank	67 680	
Dam/pool/stagnant water	113 892	
River/stream	725 719	
Water vendor	83 634	
Other	267 086	
<b>Total</b>	<b>11 205 705</b>	

Study the graph, the map of the former homelands and the article below, and answer the questions that follow.

*The Homelands were created as traditional “tribal” areas to which all members of the population were allocated (whether they had been born there or not!) and in which areas the Black population would have “rights” (such as voting etc.) which they were denied in “white” (i.e. the rest of the country) South Africa. The apartheid government paid very little attention to the Homelands and they were not provided with the same level of services (water supply, sanitation, electricity etc.) as the white areas. The Homelands (or Bantustans) ceased to exist on 27 April 1994 and were incorporated into the 9 new provinces of South Africa. Unfortunately, the legacy of apartheid remains and the former Homeland areas are still poorly serviced. Providing infrastructure and basic services to these generally impoverished areas is one of the top priorities for the government.*



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- 5.1. Which three provinces have the lowest percentage of households with access to piped water? [3]
- 5.2. Which three provinces have the highest percentage of households with access to piped water? [3]
- 5.3. What percentage of households in the Eastern Cape do not have access to piped water? [1]
6. How are the daily lives of the families in this province, who do not have access to piped water, affected? [5]
7. Read the article on the homelands and look at the map. Use this information to explain your answers to Question 5 above. [4]
8. Explain why it is difficult to provide water (and electricity) to the former homeland areas? [4]
9. Explain why and how people would benefit from the provision of services, such as "safe water" in these previously disadvantaged areas. [4]

**[Total: 40 marks]**

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### Suggested Solutions

- 1.1. How many households in South Africa do not have access to clean water? [1]  
2 million (2,000,000)
- 1.2. What is our Government planning to do about this problem? [2]  
To provide every person with 25 litres of clean water per day (within 200 metres of where they live)
2. Explain the meaning of the underlined words or phrases. [2 x 3 = 6]
- a) Hygienic sanitation – cleanliness, germ free, pollution free, disease free.
  - b) Redirect its resources – rather than spend money on “work for water”, e.g. money and workers can help communities to have water.
  - c) Rural economy – how money is made and the effects of a better quality of life and profits in country areas.
3. Convert the figures in the table into percentages, as follows: [3]  
$$\frac{\text{Number of households in category}}{\text{Total number of households}} \times 100 = \text{category \%}$$
- See table for answers.
- 4.1 How is your household supplied with water? [1]  
Choose from list in Column 1 in the table.
- 4.2 Which type of water supply is provided to the most households? [1]  
Piped water in dwelling.
- 4.3 What is the total percentage of households who receive piped water? [2]  
83%
- 5.1. Which three provinces have the lowest percentage of households with access to piped water? [3]  
Eastern Cape, KwaZulu Natal and Limpopo provinces.
- 5.2. Which three provinces have the highest percentage of households with access to piped water? [3]  
Western Cape, Gauteng, Northern Cape.
- 5.3. What percentage of households in the Eastern Cape do not have access to piped water? [1]  
 $100 - 62,4\% = 37,6\%$
6. How are the daily lives of the families in this province, who do not have access to piped water, affected? [4]  
Lack of water for domestic use – cooking, cleaning etc.  
Lack of sanitation.

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Waste of time walking kilometres to fetch water. Often not clean (disease).  
Lack of water for irrigation – poor crop yields. Lives affected in this way.

7. Read the article on the Homelands and look at the map. Use this information to explain your answers to Question 5 above. [4]

Homelands – impoverished, remote, overpopulated, lack of piped water because it was a former Homeland and government did not spend money on putting in services therefore still no services and therefore a priority for the new government.

8. Explain why it is difficult to provide water (and electricity) to the former homeland areas? [4]

Expensive. Remote. Dispersed population. Hilly topography. Far from power source. Who will provide the service? Who will pay? Short-term and long-term? Labour force unskilled. Lack of infrastructure.

9. Explain why and how people would benefit from the provision of services, such as “safe water” in these previously disadvantaged areas. [4]

Why? Curb disease, help agriculture, give more time.

How? Less sickness (better health), clean water, more chance of success with crops through more reliable H<sub>2</sub>O, more time to do more worthwhile activities e.g. jobs, study etc, i.e. don't have to waste time fetching water