



Name: _____

Class: _____ Date: _____

Some Water Please!

An extension of "Fighting cholera in Yemen"

We in Singapore take water for granted. Just turn on the taps in our homes and we have clean running water to drink, bathe, and clean our environment. This is not so for millions of people around the world for whom water is scarce, often contaminated, and cause severe illness. Read, "**Fighting cholera in Yemen**," (page 6, *What's Up* January 2018) to understand the heart-rending problem of water faced by the Yemenis.

INSTRUCTIONS

Read the following scenarios. In pairs, answer the questions.

- A. It is said, 8 million people in Yemen will soon be without running water. They will join the almost 16 million people in Yemen who already cannot get clean piped water. This means nearly four out of five Yemenis will soon be without a steady supply of clean running water.

Using the above information, estimate the total population of Yemen.

- B. Some Yemenis spend 4-5 hours a day searching for water. People have to find ways of purifying the polluted water. Boiling is often not possible because most places do not have electricity or gas due to the ongoing civil war. One solution to the shortage of clean water is to filter the contaminated water using a simple ceramic water filter unit which can purify 25L of water a day and costs about SGD10.00 per unit.

What is the rate, in L/hr, at which such a unit can produce clean water?

- C. Nearly 1 million Yemenis have been affected by cholera. The World Health Organisation says that a person needs a minimum of 10L/day of clean water for drinking, cooking, and sanitation to survive.

What is the minimum number of ceramic water filters a household of five people should have to meet their emergency water needs?

- D. Whole class feedback. Check your answers. Also discuss and compare the minimum water needed for the survival of an affected household in Yemen with the average consumption of a household in Singapore.

A household living in a 4-room HDB flat in Singapore consumes about 16,660L of water/month. (Assume a month has 30 days, for the sake of making the comparison).
Comment.