



Mai's Story

United States

● MATERIALS...

Pitcher or two of clean water; large cups, and a couple of small cups.

● FACT...

From 1900 to 2000 the amount of fresh water used throughout the world has increased at twice the rate of population growth. People living in Asia and Africa with low rainfall and high water use will be most at risk of water stress. This will have severe impact on their lives and livelihood. But even in the United States there are people who do not have regular access to clean water.

● STORY...

My name is Mai, which means bright flower. I live with my mother, father, and two brothers. We are Navajo and live in northwest New Mexico. We don't have a well or even a nearby river, so the only way we can get clean water is through Darlene, the "water lady." Darlene delivers clean water to all of the families in our community. She drives a bright yellow water truck. But, the water lady is only able to deliver water to us once a month. When Darlene comes, my family fills all buckets, bowls, and containers we have with water so we will have enough water until she comes again. We can use only seven gallons of water a day to drink, cook, bathe, and clean because the water lady comes so rarely. The average person in the United States uses about 100 gallons a day. There were times when the water lady was not able

to come because of bad weather. We shared what little water we had with our neighbors. We were thirsty and scared. But finally a few days later Darlene came. I wish we had a well so we could get water when we need it.

● REFLECTION...

Find New Mexico on the map or globe. What do you think life would be like to have to wait for a water truck once a month? Where would your family store the water? What if you didn't have enough water to drink, to shower? Pour water into each large cup and pass one to each student except for two. The last two get a small cup half full. How does it feel to have a half cup of water? How does it feel to have a nice big glass of water? Life is actually like this. Most of us have as much water as we want. But there are some who have only a little.

● RESPONSE...

Let's pray that Mai and her family will not run out of water. Let's give thanks for the fresh water we have and ask God to remind us to use it wisely. Let's also thank God for Covenant World Relief who digs wells and puts in pumps so children and their families can have fresh water. We have discovered that life is not fair. But your offering will help to bring water to children and their families who do not have water.

