

**2009-2010**  
**WHRO Classroom Preview**

**Series Title: Future Of Water**

**Curriculum Area: Science**

**Grades: 9-12**

**# of Programs/Length: 3/52 minute programs**

From ancient civilizations to current day metropolitan cities, all societies have been shaped by the struggle to control water. The future of humankind will be shaped by the element of water and this struggle for control will establish the balance between peace and war, profoundly influencing relations between countries and continents. Climate change will also greatly affect water resources in the future. In the next decades huge water projects will radically change the face of the Earth. The future of water is a highly important global issue, which threatens the security of the entire planet. In the Future of Water, join Dr. Terje Tvedt on a global journey through 25 countries as he meets with world leaders and water experts to discuss and examine the future of water and the economic, political, and social consequences that its possession and power produces.

**1.) The Waterlords**

Management of the world's fresh water supply will determine global political stability and economic development. Many countries will experience internal conflicts over rights to water. There is enough water for everyone in the world, however, the question is who should pay for it, how much it should cost, and who should receive it. For the first time in history, the majority of the world's population lives in cities, and supplying these cities with sufficient water will be a difficult task that has the potential to cause many social conflicts. This struggle for control of water has led to riots in many areas of the world including South Africa and Spain where water-rich regions hold power over water deficient regions. Disputes over water are also disputes between countries. This is taking place between the ten countries that share the Nile River Basin in Africa. In Asia, the fight over control of its large rivers is a struggle of life and death and will have enormous consequences for billions of people.

**2.) The New Uncertainty**

Climate change will greatly affect the world's water supply and societies in the future. We live in an age of climatic uncertainty and the future of the world's water supply will dominate political life and have enormous consequences for economies and cultures. Travel to Mali where lakes form and dry up each year and see how they confront the ever changing climactic conditions. Droughts or floods can be fatal to millions of people around in the world in poor countries. Uncertainty with water conditions will also pose new challenges to the world's most advanced societies. These challenges will affect international relations, migration patterns, and democratic systems all over the world. World renowned glaciologists speak about the drastic changes that are occurring in Asia and Europe due to glacier melting. Learn about the global consequences if Greenland's icecaps melt.

**3.) The Water Age (*PREVIEW PROGRAM*)**

The uncertainty of climate change and the increasing need for water is bringing a renaissance of large new water transfer methods. Throughout history, transferring water has been vital to building civilizations. Travel to the Sahara desert and learn how Egypt's leaders envision creating huge towns and large areas of cultivated land by pumping in water from an artificial Nile lake to irrigate the desert. Examine Russia's plan to build canals for water transport to several countries in central Asia, which lack water. Travel to South America and see a complex hydrological system that guarantees Brazil and Argentina a sure source of water for the future. Scientists are studying ways to locate underground water deposits and transport this water to populated areas that lack water. Travel to Iceland and learn how they are using buses that are fueled by water.