

**Professor Anouchka Rachelson**  
**“Water Issues in Florida”**  
**Lesson Plan Outline**

- I. **Subject:** EAP 0400 and/or 0420 (English for Academic Purposes)  
Speech / Reading Level 4 (upper-intermediate)  
**Topic:** Water Issues in Florida  
**Grade:** College Level  
**Time:** One 75-minute lesson
- II. **Goal:** In this lesson, students will gain knowledge of the problem of drought in Florida. They will also relate their own water use to the issue of water shortages in their state.
- III. **Instructional Objectives:** Students will:
1. develop an understanding of drought and related water issues
  2. understand the impact Florida residents have on water resources
  3. enhance their knowledge of vocabulary related to the topic (see glossary)
  4. summarize main ideas and details of an audio clip
  5. draw conclusions from a reading passage on drought in Florida

IV. **Instructional Strategies**

**Warming-up:** Involve students in a discussion on their use of water.

**Activities Lesson 1:**

1. Go over the handout “How much water do you use” and have students fill in details about their daily water usage.
2. Play the 4-minute audio clip (twice) and ask students to take notes. In pairs or small groups, have students compare/contrast their notes. Then open up the discussion to the whole class.
3. Read the short article on drought in Florida. Go over the vocabulary. In pairs or small groups, have students answer the questions about the reading. Have volunteers share their answers and engage students in a discussion, emphasizing the pronunciation of new vocabulary.

**Closure:** Ask students how their own water use is connected to the issues presented in the audio clip and the article.

**Homework:** Interview a family member or friend about his or her water use. Tell the person about the issues you discussed in class. How did they react? Write a short paragraph about the exchange.

- V. **Assessment:** Evaluation of student writing (see homework assignments)  
Evaluation of written answers to questions on the reading.  
Evaluation of vocabulary quiz based on glossary.

**VI. Materials:** See handouts below.

**VII. General Education Outcomes and EAP Speech/ Reading Competencies:**

**Outcome #1:** Communicate effectively using listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills

**Outcome #10:** Describe how natural systems function and recognize the impact of humans on the environment

**EAP 0400 Competency 2:** The student will participate in classroom discussion, express opinions and be understood by attentive listeners. The student will continue to develop oral communication skills including fluency, idea sequencing, accuracy, vocabulary, and pronunciation.

**EAP 0400 Competency 7:** The student will understand factual information and respond appropriately to comprehension questions.

**EAP 0400 Competency 8:** The student will take notes on contemporary topics (e.g., news items, reports, etc.)

**EAP 0420 Competency 1:** The student will read a variety of texts of varying lengths on contemporary and literary topics with some fluency and speed emphasizing vocabulary expansion.

**EAP 0420 Competency 4:** The student will enhance the ability to apply the following critical thinking skills when reading:

- Make simple predictions.
- Draw conclusions from stated information.
- Relate reading to personal experience



“Florida Faces Vanishing Water Supply” (NPR Report, June 15, 2007)

1. Listen to the report (4 minutes). Use the space below to take notes.

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=11097869>

2. Read the article about drought in Florida. Then answer the questions below.

**Drought** has hit many parts of the country, including Florida, where the giant Lake Okeechobee became so dry and so low, dry grasses on the lake floor caught fire. But the weather isn't the only reason for the state's water **woes**, the author of a new book says.

"Florida's groundwater has been **overallocated** — not just in South Florida, but all over the state," says Cynthia Barnett, author of *Mirage: Florida and the Vanishing Water of the Eastern United States*. "In addition, we just haven't taken conservation as seriously as other parts of the country."

Much like Las Vegas in the early 1990s, Florida seems to be **in denial** about the need to conserve water, she tells Renee Montagne. "Many homeowners associations in Florida not only require **sod**, but they have guys in golf carts driving around measuring the shade of green," Barnett says. And if you don't have the right shade, you get a nasty letter from the homeowners association and **a fine**."

Farmers are also big water consumers, using nearly half of Florida's public supply, Barnett says. In some parts of the state, city **wells** have been closed because of **saltwater intrusion** — sea water **creeps in** when **freshwater aquifers** drop too low. That problem isn't limited to Florida. Several cities along the East Coast are struggling with it, too. "Water-rich states are beginning to really worry about water supply and water conflict," Barnett says. "Several of these conflicts are headed for the Supreme Court."

**Vocabulary:**

- a. Drought (noun) – a period of dryness, lack of water
- b. Woes – problems
- c. Overallocated – to assign or guarantee too much
- d. In denial – You're in denial when you don't want to accept something that is true
- e. Sod – grass
- f. A fine – money that you have to pay when you did something wrong
- g. Well – a hole in the ground with access to ground water
- h. Saltwater intrusion – when salty water from the sea moves into a freshwater aquifer
- i. Creeps in – enters, comes in
- j. Freshwater aquifer – an underground supply of fresh water

**Answer the following questions in complete sentences. Prepare to talk about your answers.**

Knowledge:                      Who requires sod?

Comprehension:              Name three facts about water that are mentioned in the article.

Application:                    How is the "shade of green" of someone's grass related to the issue of drought?

Analysis:                        Outline the main reasons Florida is experiencing a drought.

Synthesis:

Based on the information presented in the article and in the radio program, what solutions would you suggest?

Evaluation:

What are some of the most important things residents of Florida should do to improve the current situation?

What do you think about your family's use of water?