Bringing Water to a Lesotho Village
The Village Water Committee

Scenario: Your village's existing water supply warrants the construction of an alternative water supply. The World Bank will provide funds for the construction and the maintenance of the water-supply system. Each member of the committee will play a vital role in the planning, designing, and construction of the new water-supply system. The water committee must gain the approval of the village, consequently a presentation to your village peers is expected. Read over the role descriptions provided, and then decide which role each member of your Village Water Committee will play.

Descriptions and roles for the Village Water Committee (VWC)

The VWC roles should be taken based on student interests and strengths. Roles are:

VWC Spokesperson: This member oversees the water project, and is skilled in the art of consensus building; works well with the team and gives encouraging words; takes on whatever responsibility is needed from start to finish;leads committee through presentation; checks final product to see if essential points are included; helps committee to decide on a two-dimensional model or three-dimensional model for final presentation.

VWC Researcher: This member navigates the Web as others record data and discuss the project; is able to extract information from the sources and apply it to the plan; downloads any information needed for committee members.

VWC Designer: This member is responsible for drawing the water supply system and any other visuals needed for the oral presentation, gathering materials for the drawings or model and then making the rough draft.

VWC Engineer: Knows what equipment and materials are needed for the construction of a water supply system for that particular geographic region, for example, lowlands, near stream, or highlands with snowmelt or snow run-off; makes decisions on materials mentioned in scenario and/or water supply systems diagrams' interprets diagrams and written descriptions provided on the construction of water systems.

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Background information for VWC members: Most villagers get by day to day almost entirely with subsistence agriculture. Almost no one has income-generating jobs (except the men who work as migrant labor in the South African mines). Most people available to the project are unable to provide skilled labor for the water project. A real conflict occurs when labor is needed, but work in the fields also needs to be done.

Men perform duties that generally are more physically challenging, like digging trenches, excavating springs or tank sites, making shaped stones by dislodging or breaking them off with pick axes and then shaping them with hammers and chisels; and transporting heavier pipes by hand. Women do things like collecting sand and water (usually in basins that they carry on top of their heads), shaping small crushed stone (used as aggregate in concrete) with hammers and chisels, and transporting smaller pipes by hand. One common task for boys is to collect packets of cement (50 kg each) by strapping the bags to donkeys' backs and driving the donkeys back to the village.

The villagers provide shovels, pick-axes, hammers, and chisels. Tools like these are found in almost every household, primarily because the populace is an agrarian society. Sand in streambeds and stone is found all over the place in natural outcroppings (or places where there was no topsoil left because of massive erosion).

Tasks of the Village Water Committee

1. Form a committee and reach consensus on the roles of each member.

2. Research existing water systems within the country of Lesotho. Use the data collection instrument and the country information for Lesotho on the *Water in Africa* site at http://www.peacecorps.gov/wws/water/africa/countries/lesotho/

3. Plan and design, an alternative water supply system for your village.

4. Present your design and plan persuasively to your village (classmates), persuading them to implement your plan.

Note: The feasibility of your plan should be based on two essential points:
- The proposed alternative water supply is more efficient than the present water system.
- The health of the community will increase overall, due to this alternative system.