Water Inequality Discussion

Did you know that not everyone in Canada has access to clean, running, drinking water?

Here in Manitoba, the First Nations community of Shoal Lake must drink bottled water or boil their water before drinking it to avoid getting sick from the cryptosporidiosis bacteria. Although, Winnipeg's drinking water comes from Shoal Lake. So how does this work? Winnipeg diverts water out of Shoal Lake and into the city, where it gets treated, but leaves behind dirty water with no effective water treatment facility for the community.

They now have an all-season road called “Freedom Road” which allowed for the delivery of jugs of clean water from Kenora, Ontario. Before it was built in 2019, they were under a boil-water advisory and had to cross an ice road to get clean water.

Why do you think it is important to drink clean water? Why do you think there are still communities in Canada without access to clean, running, drinking water?

How far back can you trace where your own water comes from? Starting with your tap, can you think backwards and draw the path it takes to get to you? (Use the knowledge you have, and fill in the gaps with your imagination!)