

Anatercia's Story

Mozambique

**Primary (3-6)
Case Study and
Activities**



ANATERCIA'S STORY

MOZAMBIQUE



Anatercia is 12. She lives with her brother, mother and elderly grandparents in a small hut in southern Mozambique. Like many rural communities, Anatercia's village has no electricity, hospital, secondary school or supermarket.

Anatercia's family are farmers. They grow crops of corn, beans, sweet potato and cassava. But with her mother's illness and her grandparent's old age, Anatercia's family couldn't look after their farm as they wanted to and, with limited access to water, their crops withered. Poor harvests meant that they were unable to sell food to earn an income and the family often went hungry.

This is a common experience in Anatercia's country. Nearly two million people currently face severe food insecurity in Mozambique, due to the combined effects of frequent natural disasters (including droughts and floods), the conflict in northern part of the country and COVID-19.¹

Anatercia wanted to support her family. She worked hard, taking up more and more responsibilities around the home. She even travelled up to five hours every day just to collect water!

But Anatercia is still a child and, after a while, she struggled to cope with the burden of adult responsibilities. Her education began to suffer.

Something had to change.

Anatercia carries corn next to her fields in Gaza province, Mozambique.

Photo: Emidio Josine

ANATERCIA'S STORY

MOZAMBIQUE



In 2017, Anatercia's family decided to join a program run by Caritas Australia's local partner, Caritas Regional Chokwe. The program provided initial support to the family through food baskets, seeds, school supplies and a school uniform for Anatercia. Caritas also helped them install a gravity irrigation system on their farm, as well as water taps for households in the village. Even Anatercia's grandmother learnt about more sustainable farming techniques to help the family produce enough food to eat and sell.

"After completing the program, we managed to have food from our irrigated farm, even without rain," Anatercia says. "I have enough time to take care of my mother because I have water close to the house, I am studying here in the community, and the farm gives us food all year round."

Now, Anatercia can easily access clean drinking water, local families are able to grow crops all year round and there is enough to eat. Anatercia is better supported by her community and has more time to study. She hopes to fulfil her dream of becoming a nurse, to help care for people like her mother and so that community members don't have to walk long distances for medical care.

With Caritas' support, Anatercia's health, education and quality of life have improved, along with the outlook of her community for all future generations.



ANATERCIA'S STORY

LEARNING TASKS



Read or watch [Anatercia's Story \(Mozambique\)](#).

TASK 1: Discussion

- Describe one thing in Anatercia's story that surprised you. Why was it surprising?
- Why did Anatercia need to walk so much each day?
- What factors made it difficult for her to keep up with school?
- What kinds of crops do Anatercia's family like to grow?
- Do you grow food in your own garden at home? What kinds?
- What factors made the crops on Anatercia's farm fail?
- How did Caritas Australia help Anatercia and her family and community?
- What impacts did this have on the farm?
- What does Anatercia want to do when she finishes school?
- What do you want to do when you finish school?

Curriculum links: English, Science, HASS

TASK 2: A Day in the Life

To learn more about Anatercia, watch ['A Day in the Life'](#) film. What common daily activities do you share with Anatercia? What activities are different?

Curriculum links: HASS

TASK 3: Water Journal

How much water do you use a day? Can you think of every time you used water in the last week? Most people in Australia have easy access to clean water at home and school, unlike Anatercia who had to walk for hours

every day to get water. Use the [Water Journal Worksheet](#) to keep track of every time you use water at school and at home.

- Compare your results with others in the class. What patterns can you see?
- How can you reduce your water usage at home?
- How can you share this information with others?

Curriculum links: HASS, Mathematics

TASK 4: Sprout, Little Seed, Sprout!

a. Seed Science

With the seeds and gravity irrigation system Caritas Australia helped provide, Anatercia's family and community can now grow their crops and produce enough food all year round. Seeds are small but mighty!

- What do seeds need to grow?
- What stops seeds from germinating?
- How do plants make seeds?
- Why is it important to collect seeds? (You may like to research the Global Seed Vault and its networks as part of your class discussion.)



TASK 4: Sprout, Little Seed, Sprout! (continued)

b. Small But Mighty

Watch this [short time-lapse video showing the growth of a bean plant](#).

Complete the **Lifecycle of a Bean Worksheet (p. 35)**. Then try growing some bean plants from seed, following these '[Bean Experiment](#)' instructions. To watch all the germination action unfurl in the classroom, plant a few seeds into a glass jar. Follow the '[Growing Beans in the Classroom](#)' instructions.

After the seeds have sprouted their first leaves (cotyledons), their true leaves will start to emerge and then they'll be ready to transplant into the school garden. To extend this activity, have students check and track the plants' growth each day.

Curriculum links: Science, HASS, Mathematics

TASK 6: Water Quiz

How much do you know about access to water in our world? Test your knowledge with our [Kahoot Water Quiz!](#)

Curriculum links: HASS, Mathematics

TASK 7: CST Link

The Preferential Option for the Poor is about all of us taking part in promoting justice for people experiencing extreme poverty, especially those like Anatercia who live in remote places where there are fewer resources. Use the Caritas Australia [CST Toolkit](#) to guide students' reflection on this principle.

TASK 8: RE Link

Jesus told many stories about plants. One is The Parable of the Mustard Seed ([Matthew 13:31-32](#)). Read the scripture passage. Ask students, how big is a mustard seed? Have some mustard seeds on hand to show the class. Get students to research mustard plants (including their botanical name, origin, climate and how big a mustard tree can grow). To understand the scale, have them draw a picture of themselves standing next to a mustard tree. Then, return to Jesus' parable. What does it mean? How is this related to Anatercia's story? Finish with this prayer:

Creator God,
You make all of creation to flourish,
each in its own way.
We pray for Anatercia, her family and community
and for the earth that sustains us all.
With each seed planted and each new sprout,
remind us, as Pope Francis says, that
"The future does have a name...
and its name is hope."
May we be full of hope for all future generations.
Amen.

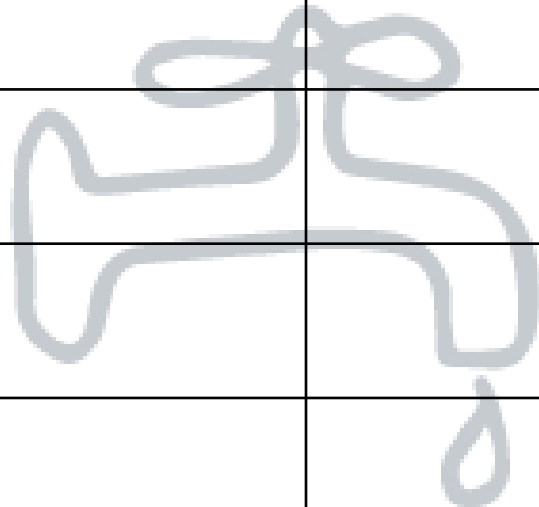
Name:

LEARNING TASK: Worksheet

Water Journal

How much water do you use a day? Can you think of every time you used water in the last week? Most people in Australia have easy access to clean water at home and school, unlike Anatercia who had to walk for hours every day to get water. Use the table below to keep track of every time you use water at school and at home.

	For drinking or cooking	For washing	For playing / other
Monday			
Tuesday			
Wednesday			
Thursday			
Friday			
Saturday			
Sunday			



THANK YOU

PHOTO CREDITS

Anatercia's Story (Mozambique) – Emidio Josine

PRIMARY STUDENTS

Learning about people not having what they need to live a healthy and safe life can be hard. If you are feeling worried or upset about anything you have learnt about through this resource, make sure you talk to your teacher or a trusted adult. They can share your concerns via our [website](#).

Do you have an idea for how Caritas Australia can improve our school resources? We would love to hear it! Please email education@caritas.org.au

TEACHERS

For more school resources, please visit: caritas.org.au/resources/school-resources/

Stay up to date with events and resources! Subscribe to [Caritas Australia's Education e-newsletter](#)



Caritas Australia gratefully acknowledges the support of the Australian Government through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program and the Australian Humanitarian Partnership.