

1 They should have thought ...

2 READING

Read *Water is Life* on page 100 of the Student's Book and do exercise 2. Then read Kate Ellis's report below. What was the problem that Michael Pritchard solved?

Lifesaving water

A report by Kate Ellis, environmental campaigner



In December 2004, Michael Pritchard was shocked by the Indian Ocean tsunami, which affected 18 countries, and left 1.7 million people homeless. He saw people after the tsunami who were surrounded by polluted water that they couldn't drink. Eight months later, Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans in the USA. There was the same problem with polluted water, and the richest country in the world had to provide huge numbers of

bottles of drinking water. They should have prepared better.

Michael Pritchard decided to do something about producing clean water without using plastic bottles. The worldwide use of bottled water is extremely wasteful. Annually, we drink 50 billion plastic bottles of water, and three times the amount of water in each bottle is used in its manufacture. Then there is the amount of oil used to produce and transport the bottles.

We shouldn't have got into a situation where people all over the world have no clean drinking water. Michael's idea was to find a way to get clean, sterile drinking water from polluted water. The usual way involves the use of water-purifying tablets, which often contain chlorine. They are costly and affect the taste of the water.

So Michael invented the Lifesaver bottle. You fill it with dirty water, close it and then pump air into it by hand. The air forces the water through a very small filter (with holes 15 nanometres wide), which gets rid of viruses and bacteria, as well as dirt. Unhealthy water in, clean water out! And the water is free, although you need to get a new filter after 5,000 litres.

Not surprisingly, Lifesaver bottles and larger containers have been successful, not only with aid agencies after disasters and with the army, but also with hikers and campers. We oughtn't to have waited so long for such a simple way to save lives – and money.

3 AFTER READING

Match the questions with the answers about *Water is Life* on page 101 of the Student's Book. Then match the questions with the answers about *Lifesaving water*. There are three wrong answers.

- 1 What similarity did Michael see between the effects of the Indian Ocean tsunami and Hurricane Katrina?
- 2 What problems are there with water-purifying tablets?
- 3 What does the Lifesaver filter eliminate?
- 4 What powers the Lifesaver bottle?
- 5 What are the three main areas of use of Lifesaver technology?

- a Humanitarian, military and leisure.
- b The user's arms.
- c Shortage of clean drinking water.
- d Electricity.
- e Plastic bottles.
- f Many people with nowhere to live.
- g Dirt, viruses and bacteria.
- h Expense and flavour.

Now look at *Your response* on page 101 of the Student's Book.