



Global Problem Solvers: The Series – Season 1, Working Well

Episode 1.4 – The Technology Teaching Companion

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Episode Summary

The Global Problem Solvers use their special powers to start building a network of sensors for the wells of one of Malawi’s twenty-eight districts. First, they use their special skills to solve a problem resulting from how their sensors interact with the surrounding physical environment—namely, Lake Malawi. Then, the team encounters issues resulting from how local residents, including the technicians themselves, are responding to the new technology. The team is inspired to solve this problem by a most unexpected source: a school of fish.

Worksheet

1. Sometimes, technology does not work the way we always intend. In addition to the critical thinking skills exemplified by our global problem solvers, what trait is highly important to being a global problem solver? And why is it important?

Complete the word below to discover the trait.

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2. What kind of problems does the lake create for the sensors? How do the Global Problem Solvers deal with these issues?
3. Have you ever had an answer to a difficult problem come to you when you weren’t trying to solve it? While dreaming, playing, relaxing? What’s your “sudden inspiration” story?
4. If you were going to propose a technological solution to a social problem in your own community, what would it be? How could others in your community get involved to help this technology accomplish your goals and perhaps work even better than you’d planned?