

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## The Ripple Effect: How Water Quality Impacts Public Health

### Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Possible answer: Poor water quality can lead to waterborne diseases, causing illness and healthcare expenses. This, in turn, can result in missed work or school, limiting economic opportunities and perpetuating poverty. The cycle continues as limited resources are allocated to healthcare, leaving less for education and economic development.
2. Possible answer: Education and awareness are vital in teaching communities about proper water treatment, hygiene, and sanitation practices. When people understand the risks of contaminated water and how to protect themselves, they can take proactive measures to prevent waterborne diseases, leading to improved public health.
3. Possible answer: Steps to ensure long-term success may include conducting water quality tests, building or repairing water infrastructure, training community members in water management and treatment, and establishing a system for regular maintenance. Additionally, community engagement and ongoing education on water-related issues are crucial for sustainability.
4. Possible answer: Examples may include NGOs like Charity: Water and Water.org, which have provided clean water access and sanitation facilities in numerous low-income areas. Government programs, such as India's Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, have also made strides in improving water quality and hygiene practices, resulting in better public health outcomes.

