

Groundwater Pollution Simulation Activity

Groundwater is the water found beneath the Earth's surface. As water moves underground, it saturates layers of sediment far beneath the surface. When enough water accumulates underground to provide a usable amount, it is called an aquifer. Pollutants can end up in our groundwater.

Supplies:

- 2 small jars or cups
- Coffee filters
- Rubber Bands or string
- Rocks
- Sand
- Dirt
- Water
- Unsweetened drink mix, Food coloring or Turmeric

Instructions:

- Place $\frac{1}{4}$ "- $\frac{1}{2}$ " diameter stones into the bottom of two cups or jars, about 1" high.
- Put coffee filters into your cups and secure them in place with rubber bands.
- Pour sand into the coffee filters about $\frac{1}{4}$ "- $\frac{1}{2}$ " deep.
- Pour dirt on top of the sand layer a few inches deep.
- Set one cup aside and on the surface of the dirt inside the other cup dump unsweetened drink mix, food coloring or turmeric. This will act as your pollutant.
- Pour small amounts of warm water into each cup, saturating the sand layer.
- Observe the water that fills the voids between the rocks at the bottom.

Discuss Similarities and Differences between the two cups.

- Did the water in one cup look clearer than the water in the other?
- What are some similarities with the water?
- What are some differences with the water?

Protecting water quality is important! You can help by:

- Picking up trash
- Clean up after pets
- Don't put chemicals on your yard or plants
- Don't put chemicals in your sink



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