

GOAL:

Investigate the effects of water pollution and observe what happens when people litter. Through this activity, we will be able to observe the difference between clean water and water that is polluted.

MATERIALS:

- 2 jars
- 2 cups of water
- Dirt (represents the mine waste rock that reaches bodies of water)
- Sewage (represents sewage that gets dumped in Lake Michigan)
- Trash (represents trash that gets blown away when transporting it across Lake Michigan)

STEPS:

1. Fill Jar 1 with water
2. Fill Jar 2 with water
3. Add dirt to Jar 2. Write down observations in the observation sheet
4. Add oil to Jar 2. Write down observations in the observation sheet
5. Add trash to Jar 2. Write down observations in the observation sheet
6. Look at Jar 1 & 2. Compare both jars and discuss in what ways did contamination affect the water

DISCUSSION:

How did this activity make you see pollution? Are there any steps that you can take to reduce pollution? Use the Deep Dive sheet for more information

WHAT IS WATER POLLUTION?

Water pollution occurs when pollutants (particles, chemicals or substances that make water contaminated) are discharged directly or indirectly into water bodies without enough treatment to get rid of harmful compounds. Pollutants get into water mainly by human causes or human factors.

WHAT CAUSES WATER POLLUTION?

There are a lot of components that can cause water to become contaminated. Some of these items include:

- Mining
- Fertilizers from farming
- Chemicals from factories
- Oil spills
- Sewage
- Trash

WHAT ARE THE EFFECTS OF WATER POLLUTION?

Water pollution affects our environment and wildlife.

- Health: When our water becomes polluted, we can no longer drink it or have it cleaned. If we don't clean it, we can get sick or get diseases.
 - Ecosystem: Pollution can easily travel through streams and rivers, which means that more bodies of water can become contaminated.
 - Death of Animals: Water animals die when water is poisoned for various reasons. Other animals are stressed and their populations are endangered. In a classic case of marine pollution in recent time, 16000 miles of a US coastline was affected by an oil spill. That water pollution caused a lot of damage and deaths of many animals.
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