

# Dirty Water Comparison LAB

## A Simple Water Pollution Observation Activity

### WHAT ARE WE EXPLORING?

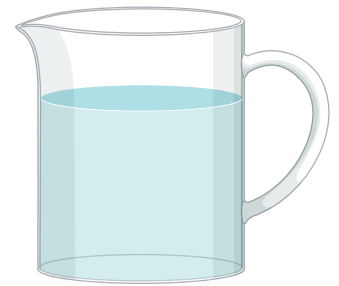
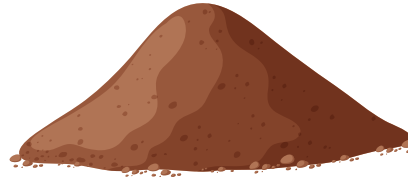
In this activity, you will compare clean water and polluted water to see how contamination changes what we observe.

### You will look for:

Settling of particles

Changes in clarity

Visible contamination over time



### SUPPLIES

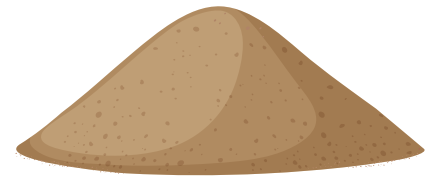
2 clear cups or jars

Clean water

Soil, sand, or small debris (to make "dirty water")

Spoon

Observation sheet



### SET UP

Fill one cup with clean water.

Fill the second cup with clean water, then add soil or debris.

Stir the dirty water mixture.

Place both cups side by side.

### MAKE A PREDICTION

What do you think will happen to the dirty water over time?

- The particles will settle to the bottom
- The water will stay cloudy
- Something else: \_\_\_\_\_

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## A Simple Water Pollution Observation Activity

### OBSERVE AND RECORD

Look closely at both cups over time. Record what you see.

TIME	CLEAN WATER (what do you see?)	DIRTY WATER (what do you see?)
Start		
5 minutes		
15 minutes		
30 minutes		

### WHAT CHANGED?

Circle or write what you notice about the dirty water:

- Particles settled to the bottom
- Water became clearer
- Water stayed cloudy
- Layers formed
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### THINK ABOUT IT

How is the dirty water different from the clean water?

Would you drink the dirty water? Why or why not?

What would you need to do to make the dirty water cleaner?

### THE SCIENCE BEHIND IT

Water pollution happens when substances like dirt, oil, or waste enter water and change its quality.

In this activity, you may have seen:

Settling: Heavier particles sink to the bottom

Suspension: Smaller particles stay mixed in the water

Clarity changes: Clean water is clear, polluted water is cloudy

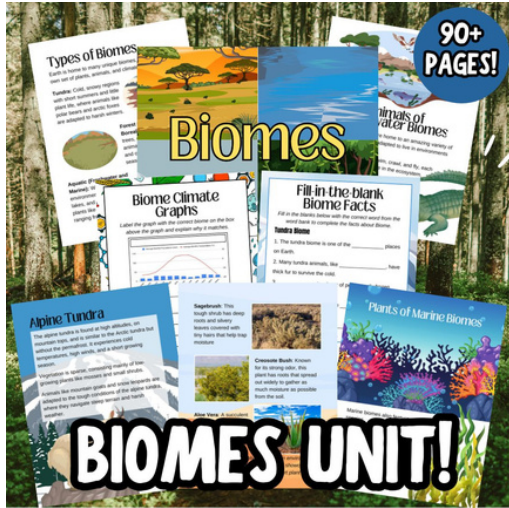
Even if water looks clearer after settling, it may still not be safe to use!

### TEACHER TIP / PARENT NOTE

This activity is a great introduction to: Water pollution | Observation skills

Cause and effect. Pair it with a water filtration STEM challenge for deeper learning.

# More Spring Labs

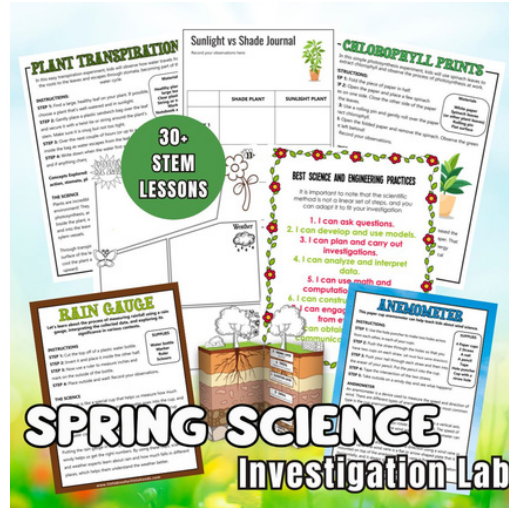


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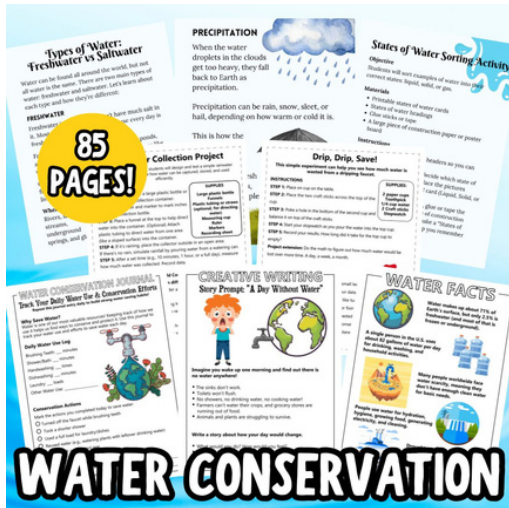


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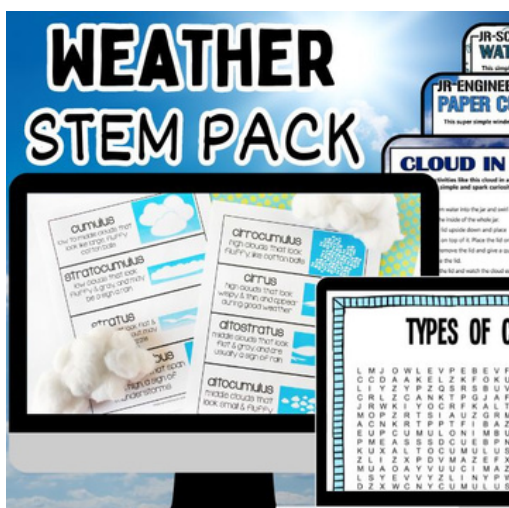
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