



Explorer Challenge: Is your water source polluted?

10 mins **Brainstorm** threats and challenges that our freshwater resources around the world face. What do you think are the biggest challenges our water sources are facing at the moment?

Focus on pollution – what impact can this have on a water source? What sources of pollution might be impacting your local water source?

Discuss how the health and quality of a water source could be measured. **Introduce** the idea of looking at macro-invertebrates (like dragonflies and crayfish) as an indication of health. What would you expect to see in poor/good quality water?

45 mins **Visit** a nearby water source (e.g. a river.). Using Resource 1 as a guide for your activity, work in groups to collect a sample of macro-invertebrates. **Identify** them using the Dichotomous Key in Resource 2 and **record** your observations using the score card in Resource 1.

You might also like to try other tests which can be downloaded from www.minisass.org

Discuss your results with your group. What did you notice about the quality of the water? What local sources of pollution may have had an impact on the water quality?

5 mins **Register** online with www.minisass.org **Explore** the Google Map and upload your results.

Points: 300 points

Time: 60 mins

Subject links:  

WHAT YOU NEED

- Resources 1 - 2
- Fieldwork Materials: Nets, trays/ice-cream tubs, pencils, recording sheets, suitable clothing/footwear, soap and magnifying glasses (optional).

THINK ABOUT

How pollution that humans put in our freshwater supplies affects animals as well as people.



EXPLORE FURTHER

Continue monitoring the water source you have chosen throughout the year during different seasons or after different weather events. **Interpret** your results and think about why they might be similar or different to your previous results.

Don't forget to write a newsreel and upload a photo of what you've done.

MAKE
EVERY
DROP
COUNT