

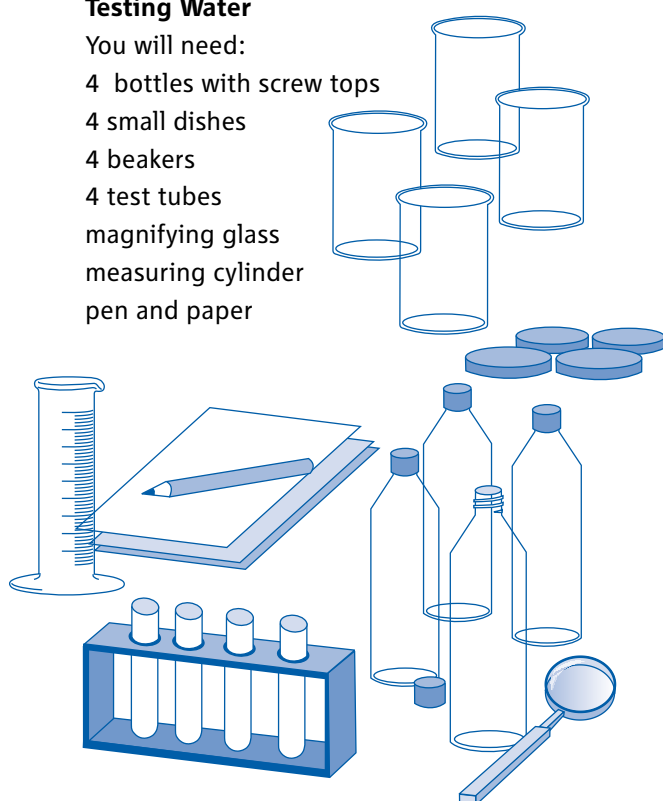
Water Quality

Activity 1

Testing Water

You will need:

- 4 bottles with screw tops
- 4 small dishes
- 4 beakers
- 4 test tubes
- magnifying glass
- measuring cylinder
- pen and paper



1. Collect samples of water from four different sources and place them in labelled bottles. For example, you could try rainwater, stream water, sea water pond water, etc.
 2. Put the samples into order - clearest first.
 3. Investigate whether there is anything living in the water.
 4. Design a fair test to find if there is anything dissolved or suspended in the water.
 5. Record your observations and results in a chart.
- Do you think any of the samples would be safe to drink? (**Don't drink any!**).

Activity 2

Hard and soft water

Water is sometimes called "hard" or "soft". This has nothing to do with the way the water feels! Water is called hard when it contains substances such as calcium compounds which it has picked up from the rocks through which it drains.

Over half of Britain - mainly the eastern, central and southern parts of England - has hard water. The water in the north and west generally does not contain these substances, and is called soft.

Soap will not make a lot of bubbles in hard water. The dissolved chemicals form a fur or scum inside water pipes and kettles - what we commonly call 'limescale'.

- Using this information, can you find out whether your water at home is hard or soft?
- Can you find out about some of the advantages and disadvantages of hard and soft water, and make a list of them?

