

Children's University Club Challenge: Water Pollution



Water pollution is when **waste**, chemicals, or other particles cause a body of **water** (i.e. rivers, oceans, lakes) to become harmful to the fish and animals that need the **water** to survive. **Water pollution** can disrupt and negatively impact nature's **water** cycle as well.

In this experiment, using materials from your home, you will design a way to clean water.

You will need:

- A bowl
- Something to pollute your water dry grass; soil; toilet paper; plastic pieces; use your imagination
- Cups or recycled bottles
- Items to try as a filter to clean the water; cotton balls, coffee filters, sand, rocks, marbles. What else could you use?



Step 1: Make some polluted water by mixing water and several pollutants in a bowl. The exact amounts are not important.

Step 2: As you are adding your pollutants, think about ways water can be polluted. Flushing a toilet; a farmer ploughing a field that allows dirt into a stream; picnics where people leave behind their rubbish and it finds a way into a river. How many ways can you think of for water to get polluted in this country and all around the World.



Step 3: Using the objects you have collected to help you filter the water begin to filter the water. You may need to think about how to remove the bigger objects at the beginning so that they don't block your filter.

Hint It will take several layers of filters to do the best job.

- Did anything clog your filter?
- Could you reuse your filter?
- Could you adapt your design to improve it?

Even if you are able to get the water to look clean there may be microscopic pollutants, [SO DON'T DRINK IT](#)

1 CU Credit for completing this task.



To claim your credit, please complete your CU Club Challenge Reflection Diary and return to your school along with a photo of your experiment.

Finally: Add the Learning Stamp to your Digital Dashboard once you receive it from your school.