

Water Quality Survey

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What is a survey?

Surveys are a way of “sampling” what the general public thinks about a certain issue. Questions are written, either to be yes/no, true/false, or open-ended. The results are compiled and it’s determined what people think or are willing to express opinions about.

Key Topic: Contamination/pollution prevention, Groundwater, Water availability/water use, Water conservation, Water management, Water quality

Grade Level: This activity can be adapted for many age groups and settings

Duration: 30 minutes

Objectives

Develop critical-thinking skills through creating questions for a survey.

Items Needed:

- Paper
- Writing utensil

Activity Steps:

1. Divide the students into groups and assign each group a specific topic that focuses on water, for example: groundwater contamination, water conservation, water uses, etc.
2. Each group should develop questions that deal with their individual topic. Offer some example questions to get the groups started, such as:
 - Do you leave the tap running when you brush your teeth? (Never, sometimes, often)
 - Do you think your water bill is too high? (Yes, no)
 - Do you worry about water pollution and why?
 - What do you think this community’s greatest potential contaminant is (chemicals, oil, sediment, other)?



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3. Once the groups have finished developing their questions, combine the questions into one survey. Make copies of the survey or have the students hand copy the survey questions onto a piece of paper.
4. Give students a few days to poll family members, friends, neighbors, etc. Each student should poll between five and ten people.
5. When students bring the surveys back, have them compile the responses. Have the students create percentages for each question. For example, if 12 out of 25 people surveyed said they sometimes leave the tap running while they brush their teeth, what percentage is this (12 divided by 25)?
6. Discuss the results: what trends can you identify? What do the results tell us - what water issues do people care about? Could they be more informed in a certain area?

For More Fun:

- Have students graph the results of the survey and develop charts to visually display the information.
- Confine the survey to people in your school. Have the students develop an educational campaign about the material in your survey - students can create posters to hang around the school, or provide presentations to share information. After the educational campaign is over, survey the same group again and see how the results changed.

