

Watershed Pollution Observations



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



**MOUNT
ARROWSMITH**
BIOSPHERE REGION

A watershed is an area of land that funnels rain and surface water into a river or lake, which eventually flows to the ocean. This experiment shows how garbage and run-off can pollute our watersheds!

Materials:

Two clear jars or containers



Garbage

(Clean garbage from your home)



Water for jars

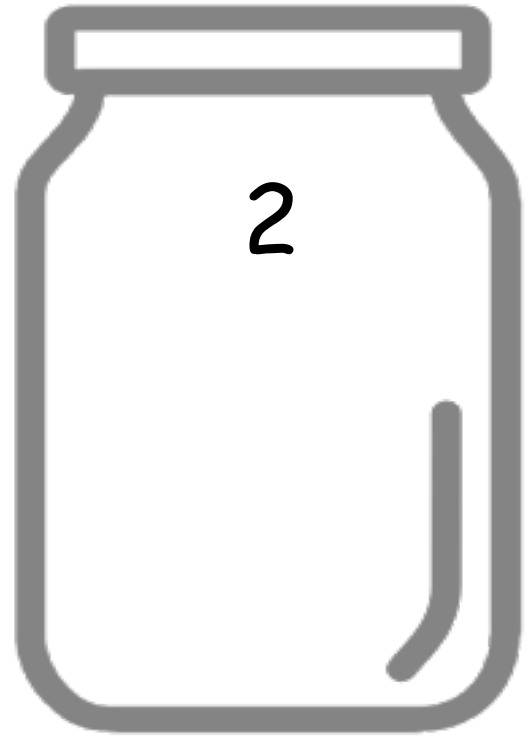
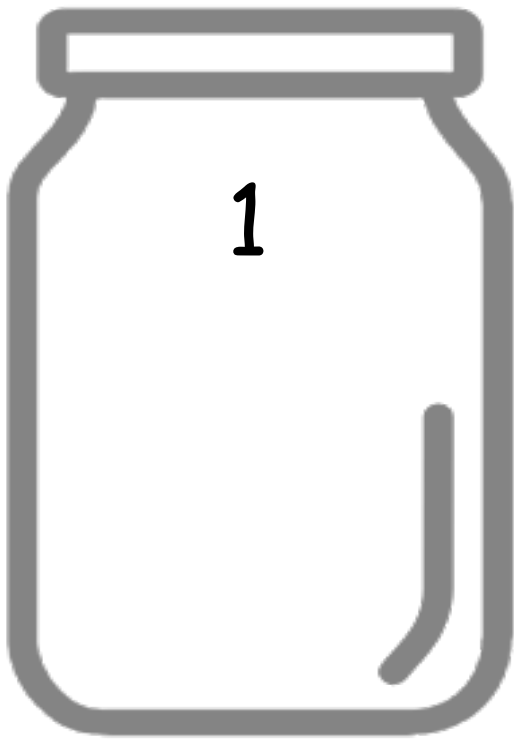


Food colouring (1 or 2 drops)



Instructions:

1. Take two jars and fill each one halfway with water.
2. Put jar #1 off to the side, you will refer back to this later to see what a clean watershed looks like!
3. Take jar #2 and fill with pieces of (clean) garbage.
4. Add 1 or 2 drops of food colouring to jar #2. The colouring acts as a pollutant (you could think of the food colouring as being oils from cars, fertilizers, gasoline, or chemicals - you decide!).
5. Put the lids on both jars and leave to sit.
6. Draw your observations in the jars on page 2.



**Make sure to dispose of everything properly when you are finished - ask an adult if you are unsure.*

Question time! Now that you can see what a 'clean' watershed looks like compared to a 'polluted' watershed, what impacts do you think the polluted watershed has on the natural environment (plants and animals)? What can we do to make sure we keep our watersheds clean?

Send us your feedback on this activity and we'll enter you into our weekly draw!

Show us your results! Snap a picture and share it with us on social media, or email it to the MABR Coordinator, at mandy.hobkirk@viu.ca



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