

We Love Science!

"My name is Annie Mals and today we are going to do some science experiments to learn more about pollution in our planet! Can you help me?"



Water pollution experiment

Let's use all our senses to learn about water pollution!

What you need:

- Three transparent tubs or containers
- Water
- Food colouring
- Vinegar
- Salt
- Plastic

1. First let's fill our three tubs with water – these are our oceans
2. In our first tub lets add a few drops of food colouring and some tiny pieces of plastic – this is acting as pollution in our experiment. We can see the food colouring in the water which shows us that sometimes we can see pollution!

Can you think of any types of water pollution we can see? What about the rubbish that gets thrown into our oceans? Just because it goes underwater does not mean it disappears, in fact plastic can take around 450 years to break down. Now that's a long time.

3. In our next tub lets put a few drops of vinegar in our water imagine this is pollution. Depending on what vinegar you have used you might not be able to see it but can you smell that? I definitely can and this is showing how sometimes you can smell water pollution. What types of water pollution do you think you can smell? Well, often sewage sludge (the stuff from our toilets!) gets put into the sea. Yuck! This is very smelly and definitely does not make a nice environment for sea creatures!
4. In our final tub lets add some salt to the water and imagine that this is pollution. Now lets give it a good mix and you'll find the salt looks like it has disappeared! This is showing that sometimes we cannot see water pollution but it doesn't mean it isn't there. Lets think about some types of water pollution that we can't see; have you ever heard of micro plastics? Plastic in the ocean eventually breaks down into tiny tiny pieces that are called micro plastics. Often fish mistake these tiny pieces of plastic for food and eat them which can be really harmful. If any of us eat fish that have eaten micro plastics then it can get into our bodies as well so its bad for all of us!

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