



How to perform a water pollution experiment

What you will need

- 4 empty jars
- 4 labels
- 1 jug
- Vinegar
- Washing detergent
- Fertilizer
- 1 teaspoon

Instructions

1. Visit a water body near you like a local pond or stream and collect a jug full of water that has pond weed or algae living in it. Make sure you collect enough so that you can put the same amount in each of your jars.
2. Take your water home and divide it evenly between the four jars.
3. Make sure to label each jar so you know which chemicals are going in each. We have used labels and sticky tape but you could also write directly on the jars in permanent marker.
4. Choose 3 pollutants – we used vinegar, washing detergent, and fertilizer for our experiment.
5. Take one teaspoon of vinegar and add it to one of the jars, one teaspoon of washing detergent and put it in the second jar, and one teaspoon of fertilizer and put it in the third jar. Leave the fourth jar without any pollutants in it so that you have a control jar - this means you can see what the water would look like with no pollution in it and compare it to the water that is polluted.
6. Put the lids on the jars but leave them slightly open so oxygen can still get in. Keep all the jars in the same temperature room so that the experiment is equal – we kept all of ours in Ellie's conservatory.
7. Look at the jars every day for two weeks and take pictures of how the water changes as time goes on.
8. After two weeks, observe how the water with the pollutants in it is different to the control jar without pollution in it. What colour is the water? What has happened to the pond weed or algae that was living there?