

Water treatment

Topics covered

- How our water is cleaned
- The water treatment cycle
- Water in developing countries
- Signs of pollution

Objectives

- Think about pollution and why water needs to be cleaned before we can drink it
- Identify the main processes in water treatment
- Appreciate that clean water is not freely available to everyone in the world

Activities

Spot the signs of pollution

Ask the children to look at the picture on their activity sheet and say what is polluting the water in the river. Answers include:

- Plane spraying fertiliser – consider organic fertilisers
- Discarded tins/take-away food cartons – remember to dispose of rubbish in proper bins
- Factory polluting the air – rain may wash chemicals into the river
- Dead fish – means not enough oxygen in the water which is a sign of pollution
- Think about the animals living on or near the water – how does pollution affect them?

Water treatment cycle

Ask the children to cut out the rectangles on the activity sheet and assemble them in the correct order. Refer to pupil sheet for the correct sequence.

Suggested approach

- Start with the activity sheet – Spot the signs of pollution
- Move on to explain how water is treated

Useful resources

There are lots of interesting case studies, games etc on www.wateraid.org.uk

For more information and ideas on this topic see our Key Stage 3 material.