

Water Monitoring

Topic: Mining and Rehabilitation

Background Information

Bauxite occurs in Western Australia within the Jarrah forest in the Darling Range. A priority land use for the northern Jarrah Forest is the supply of potable water to Perth, regional communities and local farms. It is essential, therefore, that Alcoa manages its mining operation to ensure stream water quality and yields are maintained.

You will need

- Clear beakers or glass jars, or does your school have a turbidity monitor?
- Magnifying glass
- Paper/pencils for recording information.

Activity

- Research the life forms (invertebrates) you would expect to find in a local creek/stream/river. Then visit the area
- Use the beaker/jars to take water samples and record what you find.
- Use the magnifying glass to analyse your sample more closely and record any additional findings
- Describe the quality and appearance of the water
- Ensure the water is returned.

Extension/Alternatives

Continue monitoring the water source for a number of weeks and note if there are any changes. Try taking samples at different times of the day.

Final question

What could impact on the quality of the water?

Curriculum Links

Society & Environment: Investigation, Communication & Participation, Place and Space, Resources, Active Citizenship - Ecological Sustainability

Technology and Enterprise: Technology Process, Materials

Mathematics: Chance and Data

Values

5. Environmental Responsibility

Resource Links

<http://www.ribbonsofblue.wa.gov.au/>

www.waterwatch.org.au/