

What Makes Salt Water Salty?

Equipment

One jar with tap water
One jar with seawater



Activity 1

Ask the children how they might tell which jar is which.
Have them predict what will happen if they taste the liquid in each jar.

Activity 2

Tasting may be dangerous - one of the jars might have poison in it!
How then could you tell which one is seawater?
Use saucers and evaporate the liquid.
Have the children Predict what they think will happen – they could draw this.
Over the following days the students can Observe and record the changes.
Have the students then Explain what happened to the seawater.

Activity 3

Students design and carry out their own experiment to see what floats or dissolves in seawater. They then report on which things might harm marine life if allowed to flow down the drains.

Challenge

Can You Help ?

A Marine Biologist collected two samples of water - one from the ocean and the other from a river near a factory drain. Unfortunately the labels came off the containers. Can you design an experiment that will tell them which sample is which. The biologist doesn't want to taste the samples because he thinks the river sample may be badly polluted with poisons.