Tracking Water Pollution

Procedure

1. Collaborate Use clay to make a model slope inside a plastic container. The slope represents a coastal area. Place the slope at one end of the container.

2. Use Models Add water to the container until it covers the edge of the slope. The water represents the ocean.

3. Use Models Using your fingers, make a smooth depression near the top of the slope. This depression represents a lawn or field. Add several drops of food coloring to the depression. The food coloring represents a fertilizer that is used to help grow plants.

4. Predict What do you think will happen to the “fertilizer” when it rains? Record your prediction below.

5. Experiment Carefully spray water on the land portion of the clay. This represents rain. Record what happens to the fertilizer, the lawn or the field, and the ocean.
Conclusion

1. **Observe**  What happened to the food coloring? How did it affect your model ocean?

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2. **Hypothesize**  If your model were a real coastal area, what hypothesis could you form about pollution from farms? What experiments could test your hypothesis?

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Experiment

Repeat the activity, using sand in place of modeling clay. Record your observations. What can you **infer** about how pollution can contaminate groundwater and harm organisms?

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*Unit Resource Folder*

*Directed Inquiry Recording Sheet*

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