

Handout 5—Survey: On-Site Sketch (page 1)

Date:	Time:	Air Temperature:
Team Member Names:		
Stream Name:		
Stream Location:		
Weather Conditions: <input type="checkbox"/> Clear <input type="checkbox"/> Cloudy <input type="checkbox"/> Raining <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____		
Stream Characteristics		
Appearance: <input type="checkbox"/> Scum (color: _____) <input type="checkbox"/> Foam (color: _____) <input type="checkbox"/> Muddy (color: _____) <input type="checkbox"/> Milky (color: _____) <input type="checkbox"/> Clear <input type="checkbox"/> Oily sheen <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	Bed Coating: <input type="checkbox"/> Orange to red <input type="checkbox"/> Yellowish <input type="checkbox"/> Black <input type="checkbox"/> Dark brown <input type="checkbox"/> Brownish tan <input type="checkbox"/> No coating	Odor: <input type="checkbox"/> Rotten eggs <input type="checkbox"/> Musky <input type="checkbox"/> Pungent <input type="checkbox"/> Chlorine <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> None
Habitats: <input type="checkbox"/> Pool <input type="checkbox"/> Undercut banks <input type="checkbox"/> Log piles <input type="checkbox"/> Riffle <input type="checkbox"/> Rock ledges <input type="checkbox"/> Plant beds <input type="checkbox"/> Wetlands <input type="checkbox"/> Tree roots <input type="checkbox"/> Large boulders <input type="checkbox"/> Backwaters <input type="checkbox"/> Logs or stumps <input type="checkbox"/> Artificial objects <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____		
Substrate composition is mostly: <input type="checkbox"/> Clay/silt <input type="checkbox"/> Sand <input type="checkbox"/> Gravel <input type="checkbox"/> Cobble <input type="checkbox"/> Bed rock <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____		
Cover: <input type="checkbox"/> Fully exposed (0% to 25% of the stream is shaded from the sun) <input type="checkbox"/> Partially exposed (25% to 50%) <input type="checkbox"/> Partially shaded (50% to 75%) <input type="checkbox"/> Fully shaded (75% to 100%)		
Bank Vegetation: Trees: _____% Plants: _____% Exposed: _____% Shrubs: _____% Root mats: _____%		
Structures or Barriers: <input type="checkbox"/> Upstream dam <input type="checkbox"/> Downstream dam <input type="checkbox"/> Bridge(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Island(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Waterfall(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____		
Litter (estimated amount by size): Paper, items smaller than a can: <input type="checkbox"/> 0–5 <input type="checkbox"/> 5–10 <input type="checkbox"/> 10–50 <input type="checkbox"/> +50 Can-, bottle-sized items: <input type="checkbox"/> 0–5 <input type="checkbox"/> 5–10 <input type="checkbox"/> 10–50 <input type="checkbox"/> +50 Items bigger than a can (tires, carts, etc.): <input type="checkbox"/> 0–5 <input type="checkbox"/> 5–10 <input type="checkbox"/> 10–50 <input type="checkbox"/> +50		

Handout 5—Survey: On-Site Sketch (page 2)

Biological Characteristics		
Algae location:	<input type="checkbox"/> Everywhere	<input type="checkbox"/> In spots
The algae are:	<input type="checkbox"/> Attached	<input type="checkbox"/> Floating
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	
Animals:		
<input type="checkbox"/> Fish	<input type="checkbox"/> Amphibians	<input type="checkbox"/> Reptiles
<input type="checkbox"/> Shore birds	<input type="checkbox"/> Waterfowl	<input type="checkbox"/> Mammals
<input type="checkbox"/> Mollusks (clams, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/> Insects	<input type="checkbox"/> Crustaceans (crayfish, etc.)
Types of animals present: _____		

Water Sources		
Watershed (runoff from):		
<input type="checkbox"/> Pasture, grazing lands	<input type="checkbox"/> Croplands	<input type="checkbox"/> Woodlands
<input type="checkbox"/> Homes, residential areas	<input type="checkbox"/> Factories	<input type="checkbox"/> Stores
<input type="checkbox"/> Surface mining	<input type="checkbox"/> Underground mining	<input type="checkbox"/> Logging
<input type="checkbox"/> Roads		
<input type="checkbox"/> Construction activities (explain): _____		
<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____		
<input type="checkbox"/> Channelized areas (explain): _____		
Channelized substrate composition:	<input type="checkbox"/> Concrete	<input type="checkbox"/> Cobble
	<input type="checkbox"/> Mud	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
Channelized bank composition:	<input type="checkbox"/> Concrete	<input type="checkbox"/> Cobble
	<input type="checkbox"/> Exposed soil	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
Point sources (outfalls or discharge pipes from):		
<input type="checkbox"/> Wastewater-treatment plant	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry (explain): _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Residential (explain): _____		
<input type="checkbox"/> Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/> Farm lots	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
Water Uses		
Intake pipe takes water to:		
<input type="checkbox"/> Water-treatment plant (drinking water)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Industry (explain): _____		
<input type="checkbox"/> Irrigation system	<input type="checkbox"/> Livestock	<input type="checkbox"/> Unknown
<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____		
Recreational Activities:		
<input type="checkbox"/> Swimming	<input type="checkbox"/> Fishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

Handout 5—*Survey: On-Site Sketch (page 3)*

Sketch the stream and surrounding area. Show in your sketch the different habitats in the stream (pool, riffles, etc.), structures that disrupt the flow of water (such as dams and bridges), human-built structures (buildings, roadways, etc.), any point sources (such as a discharge pipe), and the north arrow. Make sure to describe the characteristics of the stream bank, riparian zone, and adjacent land uses.

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin blue border, intended for a student to draw a sketch of a stream and its surrounding environment. The box is positioned centrally on the page below the instructions.

Student Reference Tables

The following tables can help you determine if there is possible pollution in your stream by only using your senses. Use *Table 1—Physical Indicators of Water Pollution* to help determine the possible pollutant and then use *Table 2—General Land Uses That Might Affect Water Quality* to help determine the possible pollution source.

Table 1—Physical Indicators of Water Pollution

If you see the color(s) ...	The issue could be ...
Muddy tan to light brown	Suspended solids (silt and clay) due to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • upstream erosion of the banks and substrate due to channelization, • stormwater from logging or construction sites with inadequate erosion and sediment controls, or • Stormwater from one or more areas with soil erosion, such as poorly maintained croplands and rangelands, riparian zones with removed vegetation, exposed banks, etc.
Pea green, bright green, yellow, brown, brown-green, brown-yellow, blue-green	An algal bloom due to high nutrient content (phosphorus, nitrogen, or both). Water color is dependent on the dominant plankton type.
Tea or coffee	Dissolved decaying matter originating from the organic portion of the soil. This is usually seen in woodland or swampy areas.
Milky white	Paint (from a construction site) or milk (from a food processing site).
Dark red, purple, blue or black	Fabric dyes or inks from paper or cardboard manufacturers.
Milky gray or black	Oxygen depletion from raw sewage or other oxygen-demanding substance; a rotten-egg or hydrogen sulfide odor might be present.
Clear black	Turnover of oxygen-depleted bottom waters or sulfuric acid spill.
Orange-red	Deposits on stream beds often associated with oil-production areas, but not always (check for petroleum odor). The color could be due to iron in the water.
White, crusty deposits	Common in dry or arid areas where the evaporation of water leaves behind salt deposits. These deposits are also associated with brine water discharge (from oil production areas); check to see if the stream has a petroleum odor or an oily sheen along the banks.
If you smell ...	The odor is from ...
Rotten eggs or hydrogen sulfide	Raw sewage (oxygen-demanding substance) or oxygen-poor sediment.
Chlorine	Treated effluent, swimming pool overflow, or industrial discharges.
Sharp, pungent odor	Chemicals or pesticides.
Musty odor	Presence of raw or partially treated sewage or livestock waste (organic-demanding substances). Musty odor could also be caused by algae.
If you see on the surface ...	Possibly caused by ...
Tan foam	Water containing organic materials with high flow or wave action. This harmless foam can be in small patches to very large clumps.
White foam (thin or billowy)	Soap in treated effluent, possibly around a wastewater outfall.
Yellow, brown, black film	Pine, cedar, and oak pollens that form a film on the surface of ponds, backwater areas, or slow-moving water of streams.
Rainbow film	Oil or other fuel type. Sheens are common after rains when oil and gas residue wash off streets. Other sources include spills, pipelines, and oil and gas-production areas.

Table 2 — General Land Uses That Might Affect Water Quality

Land Use Type	Potential Effects
Woodland	Erosion from logging, road construction, or clear cutting may cause muddy waters.
Agricultural Land (croplands, pastures, feedlots, etc.)	Fertilizers or manure draining into a stream may increase the nutrient content and cause excessive algal and aquatic plant growth. Sedimentation may occur from soil erosion. Streams may also receive pesticides and herbicides in the runoff.
Cities and Towns	Depending on the activities occurring in the city or town, urban runoff might carry a variety of contaminants such as oil, pesticides, metals, and chemicals.
Industry	Industries have numerous types of chemicals and products that could cause color changes to the water, excessive algal growth, odors, absence of aquatic life, fish kills, elevated organic matter levels, and sewage fungus.
Wastewater-Treatment Plants	Effects may include excessive algal growth, white foam, sludge deposits (fluffy dark brown or gray solids), absence of fish and insects (or the abundance of tolerant forms), variable dissolved-oxygen levels, chlorine odor (and possible bleached vegetation near the outfall), sewage fungus, and elevated levels of <i>E. coli</i> .
Construction	Runoff from construction sites can cause water to become muddy and turbid.
Residential	Runoff from residential areas may contain fertilizers (nutrients), oil drained from cars (toxic substances), raw sewage from septic systems that overflow or leak (oxygen-demanding substances), detergents used to wash cars (toxic substances), and even litter (cans, bottles, paper, etc.).