

Water Quality Testing

Name Answer Key

Key Terms

Turbidity: How much dirt there is suspended in the water, or how cloudy the water is. Measured in NTUs (Nephelometric Turbidity Units).

Dissolved oxygen: How much oxygen is in the water. Measured in Mg/L (milligrams per liter).

Phosphates: A nutrient. Measured in Mg/L (milligrams per liter).

Nitrates: A nutrient. Measured in Mg/L (milligrams per liter).

Temperature: How warm or cold the water is. Measured in degrees Fahrenheit or Celsius.

pH: How acidic or basic the water is. Lemons are acidic & drain cleaner is basic.

1. Circle the picture of water that you think has the **higher turbidity**.



2. Why does it matter if there is dissolved oxygen in a stream or river?

Fish and other aquatic life need dissolved oxygen to survive.

3. List three sources of phosphates and nitrates (nutrients).

Phosphates - Soap and other personal care products, pharmaceutical products, paint

Nitrates - Animal waste, certain foods, certain cleaning products

4. Do salmon need cold water or warm water?

Cold water

5. Identify the following pH's as acidic or basic.

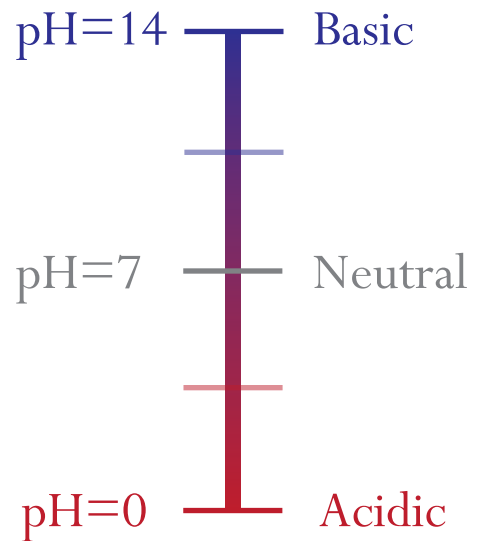
4.4 acidic basic

6.9 acidic basic

13 acidic basic

2.6 acidic basic

7.8 acidic basic



6. Make some predictions about the water in the McKenzie River. Circle your best guess!

Turbidity: High Low

Dissolved oxygen: Lots of oxygen Little Oxygen

Phosphates: High Low

Nitrates: High Low

Temperature: Warm Cold

pH: Above 7 Below 7