

ACTIVITY SHEET

KS3 Your body and water

Can you tell bottled water from tap water?

Your aim is to devise an experiment to see if people can taste the difference between bottled water and tap water. You could also ask people to describe the taste of the different waters they sample. These tests are called blind taste tests because people aren't told what they are tasting.

Make an experimental design

You need to make a plan for your experiment:

- Think about the number and type of people you want to test. You might decide to go for a wide range of people by including girls, boys, adults, different ethnic backgrounds, different ages etc. The people in the test are your subjects.
- Where will you hold the test? Find an area away from noise and cooking smells which may distract the people taking part in the test.
- Vary the order in which you will present the water samples to your subjects.
- Write down the questions you are going to ask.
- Plan how you are going to record the results.

Run the test

- Buy several types of bottled water - include natural mineral water and bottled table water.
- Tap water can smell of chlorine. Run a jug of water and put it in the fridge for a few hours to get rid of the smell.
- You could include filtered tap water (ask if someone has a water jug filter at home) and non-filtered water.
- Label your water samples with a code so people don't know what they are drinking.
- Keep the experimental conditions consistent:
 - use identical cups for the water
 - keep all the water samples at the same temperature
- Ask people which sample they prefer and why, which they liked the least and which they think is the tap water.
- After the test, thank them for taking part.

Analyse your results

- Work out your scores and compare them with other results.