

A Taste of Salt



Catchment education

Activity prepared by Landcare Education Program - ph 92964727

Focus: A fun interactive way to introduce students to salinity through tasting water and then testing the EC level

VELS links: Domains and Levels: Science (3,4,5)

Materials: Two water containers
Salt
Teaspoon
EC meter
Salinity posters – ‘A Taste of Salt’

Materials for extension: Fox whistle
Bailer – Obtains water sample from bore
Container to put bore water in
EC meter
Fresh water to clean container and EC meter
Salinity poster – ‘A Taste of Salt’

Method: Fill the water containers with clean water, to one of the containers add salt, about 1.5 teaspoons, to the other don't add salt.
** You can actually have more containers available with varying amounts of salt. The students could then organise them from least salty to very salty before testing the EC level of each sample.*

Have the students taste each of these water samples and then get them to describe what each sample tastes like.

Find the EC reading for these samples by putting the ec meter in each sample. Make reference to the poster and show where the samples fit on the scale.

Discussion can be generated about the impact the water samples could have if they came into contact with plant roots or entered into waterways.

Method for extension: If you have a water bore available then you can explore salinity in ground water with your students.

- Open the bore
- Drop the fox whistle in to ascertain the depth of the watertable.
- Drop the bore sampler into the bore to obtain a sample of the water within the bore and place this into a container and take a EC reading
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- *Have the students guess the depth of the water table and the saltiness of the water prior to starting – link the salt levels in the bore to the ‘taste of salt’ activity and the posters.*