

EDIBLE AQUIFER

See how **pollution** can be **absorbed** into ground water.



You Will Need:	blue or red food coloring	vanilla ice cream
	clear soda pop	drinking straw
	crushed cookies or ice	clear plastic cup & spoon
	colored cake decoration	small gummy bears or chocolate chips
	sprinkles and sugars	

Instructions:

Fill a clear plastic cup 1/3 full with gummy bears, chocolate chips, or crushed ice.
(These represent gravel and soils.)

Add soda, just covering the candy or ice.

Add a layer of ice cream, (confining layer) over the water-filled **aquifer** (soda).

Add more crushed ice on top of the "confining layer."

Sprinkle colored sugars over the top representing soils and **porous** layers.

Add food coloring to the soda to represent **pollutants**. Notice how the water in the soda **dissolves** the pollutants. Watch what happens when it is poured over the top of the aquifer. The same thing happens when pollutants are spilled on the earth's surface.

"Drill" a drinking straw into the center of the aquifer to represent a well.

Slowly begin to pump the well by sucking on the straw. Watch the water table decline.

Notice how the pollutants can get sucked into the well ending up in the groundwater by leaking through the confining layer.

Now recharge your aquifer by adding more soda which represents a rain shower.

Think About It!

Did you know that one drop of motor oil spilled on the ground can pollute several hundred gallons of drinking water? What other household **substances** could harm a well if spilled on the ground?
