**Water Quality Lab**

**Materials:**

* Water samples - Microscope - pH strips
* Slides - Pipettes

**Procedure:**

1. Get into a group of 3-4 with those around you (no moving across the room)
2. Write a description of your water, including color, smell, bubbles, etc.
3. Test the pH of your sample using a provided strip.
	1. Record your results in a separate chart (you will be taking several).
4. Use a pipette to put a droplet of water on a slide.
	1. Examine under the microscope.
	2. Describe what you see.
5. Repeat steps 1-5 with at least 2 additional samples.

**Analysis:**

1. For each sample, explain how it is considered “clean” or “dirty.”
2. Why are some types of outdoor water considered more “clean” than indoor ones?
3. Create a graph of the pH levels using the chart you made.
	1. Pure distilled water has a pH of 7. Which water samples were different? Explain why they might be.
4. In a nice clean, healthy stream, would you expect to see high or low dissolved oxygen levels?
5. Why would noting color, smell and other observations be important?
6. Explain the importance of having clean water.
7. What can be done to improve the quality of water in an area?
8. Describe what might happen if we run out of clean water.