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## Water Temperature

Monitoring water quality involves more than just checking on pollution. The temperature of the water is also important to aquatic organisms. The temperature can affect organisms in several ways:

- Warm water holds less oxygen than cold water and triggers more plant growth.
- Most aquatic organisms have adapted to living within a range of water temperatures. Trout and salmon, for example, require very cool water, while bass and carp thrive in warm water.
- Extreme temperature fluctuations can make fish and macroinvertebrates more susceptible to disease, parasites, and the harmful effects of pollutants.

Check with your leader to make sure it is safe. Then follow the steps below to determine the temperature of the water and of the surrounding air. Start with the air temperature.

1. Place your thermometer in a location out of direct sunlight, and after a few minutes, note the temperature of the air.
2. Then lower the thermometer about 10 cm below the surface of the water, as close as possible to the middle of the stream.
3. Leave the thermometer underwater until the reading has stabilized. This usually takes about two minutes. Try to take the reading with the base of the thermometer still underwater. Remember to note whether you've measured the temperature in degrees Fahrenheit (F) or Celsius (C).

Temperature Data Sheet	
Air _____ °C/F (circle one)	Water _____ °C/F (circle one)
List three things besides air temperature that might affect water temperature.	