

How Oysters Filter Dirty Water



What you will need

- Empty container (no more than 300ml)
- Oregano (to represent algae)
- Dried onion (to represent debris and other loose material)
- Peppercorn (to represent sediment)
- Teaspoon
- Funnel
- Empty container (over 300ml)
- Coffee filter

1. Add 1 teaspoon of oregano to the container.

This represents algae, small plants that live in the water.

2. Add 1 teaspoon of dried onion to the container.

This represents debris, (small fragments of broken-down plants and animal waste).

3. Add 1 teaspoon of peppercorn to the container.

This represents sediment, which is made up of small pieces of broken-down rocks.

4. Fill the container halfway with tap water.

This represents the water in a bay or river.

5. Mix everything together with your teaspoon.

You've now created your 'dirty water'!

6. Set aside the 'dirty water'.

7. Create your own 'oyster' by folding the coffee filter in half; then fold in half again.

8. Set the coffee filter in a funnel over the remaining empty container.

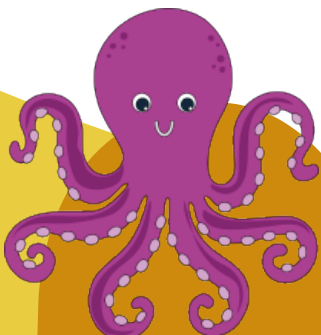
9. Pour the 'dirty water' mixture slowly through the filter.

10. Discuss how clean the water is after going through the filter.

DISCUSS

Why is the water cleaner?

How does this relate to how oysters filter water in nature?



Even though oysters are known to create pearls, the European native oyster rarely creates pearls.

