

Using pH Paper (Electrical Conductivity Greater than 200 mS/cm)

Field Guide

Task

Measure the pH of your water sample using pH paper.

What You Need

- Hydrology Investigation Data Sheet
- pH paper
- 100-mL beaker
- Latex gloves
- Pen or pencil

In the Field

1. Fill in the top part of your *Hydrology Investigation Data Sheet*.
2. In the pH section of the *Data Sheet*, check the box next to 'pH paper'.
3. Put on latex gloves.
4. Rinse the beaker with sample water three times.
5. Fill the beaker halfway with sample water.
6. Follow the instructions that come with your paper for testing the pH of the sample.
7. Record your pH on the *Data Sheet* as *Observer 1*.
8. Repeat steps 4-6 using new water samples and new pieces of paper. Record the data on the *Data Sheet* as *Observer 2* and *Observer 3*.
9. Find the average of the three observations.
10. Check to make sure that each observation is within 1.0 pH units of the average. If they are not within 1.0 units of the average, repeat the measurements. If your measurements are still not within 1.0 pH units of the average, discuss possible problems with your teacher.
11. Discard used pH paper and gloves in a waste container. Rinse the beaker with distilled water.