

River pollution - water quality

→ Pollution can be measured by looking at the animals living in the river, as they will be affected by the pollution. To measure the quality of the water we calculate the Biotic Index which works by giving each animal a score that tells whether they are sensitive to pollution (10 means they are very sensitive, 1 means they can live in a polluted river.)

To measure the Biotic Index you need to:

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- 1 Use your key to identify a sample of animals from the river
 - 2 Identify which animals you have and tick the empty box
 - 3 Add up the sensitivity scores for all the ticked boxes and write it in box A
 - 4 Add up the number of boxes ticked and write it in box B
 - 5 Divide box A by box B to give the Biotic Index

→ The answer should lie between 0 (no life at all) and 10 (probably a very clean river.)
The higher the score, the less polluted the river.



8



6



3



7



10



8



6



5



5



4



1



3



2



3

Add up the numbers for the animals you found

A

Add up the numbers of types of animals found

B

Divide the number for A by the number for B

C