



# Blind Taste Test

In the Visualise Plastic Waste activity, your students discovered just how many plastic bottles we throw away each year!

Disposable plastic water bottles are among the most commonly found items on beaches and in rivers around the UK. But it doesn't have to be that way! You can fill up your reusable bottle with fresh, clean drinking water from you tap – and it's FREE (well nearly!). Or, you could use a single water filter to purify approximately 350 litres of tap water (equivalent to 10 of the enclosed net bags filled with empty plastic water bottles)!

These are pretty clear and straightforward ways dramatically to reduce the amount of plastic we throw away each year. You can even download the free Refill app to find places to fill up your reusable bottle when you're on the go: [www.refill.org.uk](http://www.refill.org.uk)

But, does water in plastic bottles taste better or worse as compared with filtered water or tap water? Let's find out in this activity and discover if this varies across the UK!

Follow the instructions below, or watch the instruction video on our website: [www.hansonbox.org/water](http://www.hansonbox.org/water)

By taking part, we'll find out once and for all which water is preferred across the UK. Perhaps preferences vary as a result of local geology which may impact the taste of tap water? Perhaps all three waters are indistinguishable? Or perhaps one is strongly preferred? What predictions does your class make? Let's find out!

**Note to teachers:** please ask school staff to undertake this activity (e.g. in the staff room during a break or after school), and complete a results sheet accordingly. It will be very interesting to establish if the preferences of (adult) school staff vary from the results of students.

The Great British Water Project's blind taste test offers a really interesting analysis of the nation's preferences for drinking water which could have profound impacts on our future use of single-use plastic water bottles.

Together with our partner, AQUAPHOR, we have provided all of the equipment that you need for one class of up to 32 students to take part in the blind taste test. The only item that you need to source is two litres of bottled still mineral water (any brand - the cheapest available will do). It was not appropriate for us to send full bottles in the Great British Water Box for obvious reasons!

**Note:** multiple classes at your school can participate in the blind taste test (the more, the better). You will just need to source additional clean cups (three cups per student), and will need to photocopy extra student and leader results sheets, or download from [www.hansonbox.org/water](http://www.hansonbox.org/water) and print.

**Note:** by participating in the Great British Water Project activities and submitting data that you collect to us, you are consenting to the use of the data, including on our interactive maps in connection to your school (see [www.hansonbox.org/water](http://www.hansonbox.org/water)). No personal data is collected through the Great British Water Project (and none will be displayed).



## Follow the steps below:

**Step 1:** Nominate a teacher to act as the leader of this activity to perform the following tasks.

**Step 2:** Unpack the Great British Water Project box **out of sight** of your students.

**Step 3:** Cut each of the four enclosed student score sheets into 8 score cards, following the cut marks indicated. You will have 32 score sheets in total. Photocopy more if needed.

**Step 4:** Unbox the three AQUAPHOR water filter jugs and **take out** the filter units.

**Step 5:** Affix one of the enclosed jug labels to each of the AQUAPHOR water filter jugs (so the three jugs are labelled 'JUG 1', 'JUG 2' and 'JUG 3').

**Step 6:** Without any of the students seeing, select one of the jugs and record its label number in Section 1 on the enclosed 'Activity Leader Results Sheet'. **Important:** follow the instructions in the AQUAPHOR water filter box to **cure** the filter cartridge, then install it into your selected jug. Make sure you have recorded the correct jug number (on the label) in Section 1 of the activity leader results sheet.

**Step 7:** Still without any of the students seeing, fill up one of the remaining jugs with tap water (**without** adding an AQUAPHOR filter unit). Record the number displayed on this jug's label in Section 1 on the enclosed activity leader results sheet. Do the same with the final jug, filling it with water from a plastic bottle of mineral water.

**Step 8:** You will now have three jugs of water that look identical, except that they have different labels. You can bring these in front of the class now.

**Step 9:** Give each student three of the enclosed plastic cups (100 cups are enclosed). Pass round the marker pen (provided inside the Great British Water Project box) and instruct each student to write '1' on one of their plastic cups, '2' on their next cup and '3' on their final cup. Each student will end up with three cups, each labelled '1', '2' and '3'.

**Step 10:** The activity leader must pour a little water (enough for a large sip for proper tasting) into all of the students' cups. Make sure to correspond the jugs with the cups that bear the same label (e.g. pour water from the jug labelled 'JUG 1' into the cup marked '1'. Tell the students NOT to drink the water yet. Repeat for JUG 2 and JUG 3. All students should end up with a small amount of water from each jug in their three cups (with the labels on the jugs and the cups corresponding).

**Step 11:** Do not reveal to the students which jug label corresponds to each of the water types. This must remain anonymous before the taste test is carried out.

**Step 12:** Ask your students to drink a little from each cup. After each cup is tasted, instruct the students to record on their score sheets how they rate each water sample's taste. There are five options on the student score sheets. Each student should **mark only one rating** for each of the three water samples.

**Step 13:** Starting with JUG 1, instruct the students to put up their hands so the activity leader can count how many students selected each rating. The activity leader should record these results on the enclosed activity leader results sheet. Repeat for JUG 2 and JUG 3 so all results have been recorded. Check your results are correctly recorded! Which water type did your class prefer?

**Step 14:** When all students have sampled the water in all three cups and have recorded their ratings on the score cards, the activity leader can reveal which water type correlates to each of the three jug labels.

**Step 15:** **Scan the completed Activity Leader Results Sheet** and **email it** to the Hanson Box team at [water@hansonbox.org](mailto:water@hansonbox.org) **before July 31st, 2021**. We will collate all results we receive, upload the data and launch an interactive map via a live streamed event at 10 am on August 11th!

**Join our live event at 10 am on August 11th via [www.hansonbox.org/water](http://www.hansonbox.org/water)**

**PRIZES:** Every completed activity leader results sheet that we receive will be entered into a **draw** to win twenty £50 Amazon vouchers! **The winners will be announced during the August 11th event!**

We hope your school will enjoy using the three enclosed AQUAPHOR water filter jugs, and through the use of these, you can avoid throwing away hundreds of single use plastic bottles! Should you wish to purchase further A5 filter cartridges for the jugs, these are available via [Amazon.co.uk](http://Amazon.co.uk)!

AQUAPHOR has generously offered the following **10% discount code** which applies to A5 filter cartridges bought this year. To redeem this discount, search 'AQUAPHOR water filters' on Amazon. Ensure you buy A5 filter cartridges direct from 'Aquaphor UK Ltd' and use this code at checkout: **5IU9CE26**

**Lastly, we encourage you to recycle the enclosed plastic cups sent as part of this activity!**