

Engineering Activity 4: Block It Out: Investigating Filters

How can we improve water quality?

Cleaning Results

We are filtering water from

Location: _____

Water Quality Feature	Before filtering	5 cotton balls	1 square of cheesecloth	1 paper towel, half-sheet	1/4 cup sand (with cheesecloth lining)	2 Tbsp limestone (with cheesecloth lining)
Clarity Not clear Cloudy Clear						
Color Has color Colorless						
pH Acidic (0–5) Neutral (6–8) Basic (9–14)						
Smell Strong smell Weak smell No smell						
Texture Gritty Smooth						

Were you able to improve the water quality of your sample using the materials?

Cotton Balls: Yes ☐ No ☐

Cheesecloth: Yes ☐ No ☐

Paper Towel: Yes ☐ No ☐

Sand: Yes ☐ No ☐

Limestone: Yes ☐ No ☐

Draw, write, or tell a partner about materials you could combine to improve the water quality even more.