

PHYTOPLANKTON GROWTH INVESTIGATION (PROCEDURE EXAMPLE)

Setup

1. Rinse a very clean water bottle with the sample water from your teacher. Keep the bottle cap.
2. Fill the bottle with [##] mL of sample water so that the bottle is about 75% full.
3. Label the bottle with:
 - a. your name,
 - b. the date,
 - c. the factor you are testing, and
 - d. your treatment (what you are adding or the conditions you are changing).
4. Put the cap back on the bottle. Then, open it 1/16 of a turn so air can move in and out.
5. Place the bottle 4 cm from a fluorescent light. *Do **not** use direct sunlight because it will kill the algae.*

Data Collection

1. Tighten the cap and shake the bottle before you make observations and measurements.
2. Open the bottle again.
3. Take notes on any changes in color or smell.
4. Measure water clarity with a mini Secchi disk on a stick.
5. Make sure to get the control data from [insert control data protocol here].

How to Read a Secchi Disk

1. Lower the Secchi disk into your open water bottle until you can no longer see the disk.
2. Look through the side of the bottle to see the [straw/ruler/etc.]. Record the depth measurement in your data table.
3. If you can still see the Secchi disk at the bottom of your water bottle, record “bottom” as your depth measurement.