**Water Quality**

**ACTIVITY ONE: Water Quality—On Tap!**

**Testing City Water vs. Well Water**

*Where do you get your water, from a well or the city system? Who has the best water?*

After students have debated whether their drinking water should be bottled and sold, the class can compare the city water system water to various personal wells in students’ yards. Ask student to bring in water samples from home. Provide containers so you know they are clean and can be brought into class without being contaminated. Have students on well water ask their parents how often/when the well has been tested, and then ask them to bring in the paperwork from the testing.

Allow students to develop a method of testing well vs. city water samples. Students will collect data, graph and compare results.

A visitor from the local public water department will help to answer questions. This visitor can bring in a Water Department Quality Report and data sheet sent annually to citizens and explain what that information means.

**Materials:**

* Clean, dry containers for students to collect water.
* Water quality test strips — (HACH brand are good)
	+ pH
	+ nitrite and nitrate
	+ phosphate
* Software or paper to graph data
* Local Public Utility Board, City Water Quality Report (the one mailed to homeowners)