GROUNDWATER POLLUTION LAB

Name_____ Block_____

PURPOSE: To demonstrate how water infiltration can carry pollutants underground

MATERIALS: food coloring, slice of white bread, plastic sheet and paper towel, dropper bottle of water

PROCEDURE:

1. Cover your work area with the plastic sheet. Cover the plastic sheet with the paper towel.

2. Hold the bread vertically on top of the paper towel.

3. Add a drop of food coloring to the top crust edge of the bread slice.

4. Drop at least 2 mL of water on the food coloring.

5. Record your observations after 5 minutes.

OBSERVATIONS:

Sketch

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

SUMMARY QUESTIONS:

1. What does the bread represent?

2. What does the food coloring represent?

3. What do the water drops represent?

4. Did the pollutant (a) continue through the bread or (b) was it filtered out, leaving only clean water to progress downward? _____

How does this make it difficult for people who live next door to a polluted landsite?

5. Did the water (a) spread out or did it (b) go straight down? ___

How does this make it difficult to locate where the pollution originated?

6. What human activities on the surface have a effect upon groundwater quality?

(a)
(b)
(c)
(d)

7. What kinds of pollutants might come from common household products?

8. what kinds of pollutants might come from septic tank fields?

9. what kinds of pollutants come from landfill seepage?

10. List several other sources of groundwater pollution:

(a)
(b)
(c)
(d)