Turbid Waters
Pre-class Activity

Introduction: Water is a part of our everyday life, but most of us take it for granted. The Turbid Waters class at Driftwood is a chance for students to test our local water to see if it is healthy or not. Not only should students have a chance to test the Frederica River, but also a chance to test their own water at school. This way they can see how their local water compares to ours on the island and what ways to keep it healthy.

1) Start the activity by asking the students a series of questions: What is the source of the school's water supply? Is this water treated? Where and How? Is the school water the same as the city water? How do they make sure it is drinkable? What type of things do you think contaminate this water source? [This would be a great opportunity to bring in a member from the community that deals with water purification]

2) After the discussion, either take a trip to a local water source or bring in some samples from one or a variety of local water sources. Have students make observations about the water, such as the turbidity of the water or the visibility of the water. Do they think this water is healthy? What makes water healthy?

3) Once they have observed the water and gotten information about where it came from, have the students test the water using pH sticks (these can be found at a local teaching store, hardware store, or pool store). They can do this in groups or individually. Have the students write their observations in the chart below.

Groups	School Water pH	Local Water Source pH	Local Water Source pH

4) After testing the water, observe the results. Ask questions about why one result might be different than another. Would they find the same results if the experiments were conducted in a different season? Are there factories upstream? This will get the students minds going so that while they are at Driftwood they can compare their outcomes and reach a conclusion as to why monitoring water is important for all of us.