

Cut these into cards for sorting and ask learners to match consequences to pollutants.

The second page has clue cards which can be used to give them some assistance.

Pollutant	Consequences
iron and manganese	Brown colouring of water and unpleasant taste.
nitrates and nitrites	Methaemoglobinaemia – less oxygen can be carried by the blood and in bottle fed infants this can lead to ‘blue baby syndrome’.
fluoride	Mottling of teeth and skeletal fluorosis
arsenic	Skin lesions and higher risk of cancer
parasitic worms	Transmit their eggs to humans via water supply.
Legionella bacteria	Legionnaire’s disease which can lead to pneumonia
solid particles	Allow bacteria to grow
lead	Neurological damage

Hints	Pollutant
Presence of these metals causes a dark colour and can be removed by aeration.	Iron and manganese
Leach into ground water due to the use of fertilisers. These cause changes to red blood cells.	Nitrates and nitrites
This is present in all natural water and in small quantities has beneficial effects on teeth.	fluoride
Can occur naturally but at high levels can lead to severe illness including cancer.	arsenic
This can be present in water if lead pipes are used and high levels have various harmful effects on the brain.	lead