

Estimate or Actual? Handout

Students survey water quality and hydrology tests, classify them and justify their reasoning.

Instructions:

1. Go to www.Orange.WaterAtlas.org and choose a lake from the Water Resources Search list.*
2. Click on the **Water Quality** tab.
3. Record the measurement reported for each water quality parameter shown.
4. Click on the **Learn more about...** links for help understanding what each parameter measures and how the value was obtained. You may also refer to the Water Atlas Glossary, found on the Help page.
5. Go to another source, a reference book on water quality, dictionary or any other source your teacher has made available to you to recheck the meaning of each parameter.
6. Decide if the results are an estimate or an actual measurement.
7. Justify your reason.
8. Beside the name of the test write the definition of the term, whether it is an actual measurement or an estimate and your reason for making this decision.
 - a. Total Nitrogen (TN) _____
 - b. Total Phosphorus (TP) _____
 - c. Chlorophyll a, uncorrected for pheophytin _____
 - d. Secchi Depth _____
9. Now click on the Water Levels & Flow tab and follow the same instructions.
 - a. Water Level, Latest Value _____
 - b. Flood Level _____
 - c. Historic Norm for Month _____
 - d. Historic Range, Water Level _____

* All tests may not be available for every lake. If one lake does not have data, choose another one*

Name:

Date: