Water Pollution Mini Lab

Name: _____ Date: _____ Class: _____

Introduction: Today, we're going to explore how water can get polluted and how difficult it can be to clean it up. We'll start with "clean" water and then see what happens when different "pollutants" are added.

Materials:

- Clear container with "clean" water
- Various "pollutants" (soil, oil, soap, plastic pieces, paper, food coloring)
- Cleanup tools (spoons, tongs, filters, etc.)
- Small empty containers for waste

Part 1: The Clean Water

1. What are some examples of what this water represents?

2. **Observe the clean water.** In the box below, draw a picture of what the water looks like right now.

3. Describe the clean water using words. What do you think lives in this kind of water? What can people do with this kind of water?

   _____

   _____

   _____

Part 2: Adding the Pollutants

As each "pollutant" is added, watch carefully and describe what happens to the water.

Pollutant Added	Actual Item Used	What it might represent in real life (e.g., trash, oil spill, dirt runoff)	What happens to the water when this is added? (Describe what you see)
1. Something that will soak up water			
2. Something that floats on water			
3. Something that sinks in water			
4. Something that changes the color of the water			

Part 3: Observing the Polluted Water

1. **Observe the water after all the pollutants have been added.** In the box below, draw a picture of what the polluted water looks like now.
   (Space for drawing)
2. Based on your observations, how suitable is this water now for:
   - **Drinking?** (Yes/No/Maybe and why)
     _____
   - **Swimming?** (Yes/No/Maybe and why)
     _____
   - **Supporting aquatic life (fish, plants, etc.)?** (Yes/No/Maybe and why)
     _____
3. _____

_____

Part 4: The Cleanup Challenge

1. What cleanup tools are available to you?
   _____
2. Try to remove the pollutants from the water using the tools.
   - Which pollutants were easy to remove?
     _____
   - Which pollutants were difficult or impossible to remove completely? Why?
     _____
     _____
3. After your cleanup attempt, describe what the water looks like now. Is it as clean as it was at the very beginning? Why or why not?
   _____
   _____

_____

Part 5: Reflection and Prevention

1. What did this demonstration teach you about water pollution?
   _____
   _____
2. Since cleaning up pollution is so hard, what is the most important thing we can do to protect our water sources?
   _____
   _____
3. List two specific actions you can take in your daily life to help prevent water pollution.
   - _____
   - _____