

Student Worksheet

Not in My Backyard!

Where-oh-where should the Milltown wastes go?

Introduction

Wastes from Silver Bow Creek, the Clark Fork River and Milltown Dam are consolidated and managed at the Opportunity Ponds, also known as the BP-ARCO Waste Repository, near Anaconda. There are millions of tons and cubic yards of wastes at the site. Are all wastes at the site considered equally toxic? Should we continue to add wastes to this site or should we find another solution?

Explore

1. With your group, count the number of beads of each color in the jar provided.

- What is the total number of beads you have?

- How many green beads do you have?

- How many clear beads do you have?

2. Write a ratio to express the number of green beads to the total number of beads.

3. What is the percent (%) of green beads in your jar? (Hint: Imagine you had one green bead in a jar with 99 clear beads. What is your percentage?)

4. Thinking in terms of the BP-ARCO Repository and the Milltown sediments, what do you think the green beads represent? How about the clear beads?

Education Portal Lesson: Not in My Backyard!
Student Guided Inquiry Worksheet (cont'd)

Elaborate

1. Based on what we have learned in the lecture, what are some of the differences between the Milltown wastes and the wastes already located at the ponds?

2. Write down your observations about the two samples. What do you notice? Which sample looks “more toxic”? Why?

3. How can you “test” that there are differences between the Milltown wastes and the Opportunity wastes?

4. Why do you think that the Milltown wastes look more like “dirt” rather than like tailings?

Education Portal Lesson: Not in My Backyard!
Student Guided Inquiry Worksheet (cont'd)

5. What do you think makes Milltown wastes toxic?

6. What does location of waste have to do with relative toxicity?

7. List a few concerns people in the town of Opportunity may have about Milltown wastes being deposited near their town.
