

You will need:

- measuring jug
- weighing scales
- table salt (about 70g, split into four as described in the instructions)
- 4 x 200ml of tap water
- 4 cups
- spoon

Experiment:

In this activity you are going to make and taste water samples from around the world. The places around the world we have chosen are Antarctic sea ice, the Baltic Sea, the Mediterranean Sea and the Dead Sea – the water from these four places will taste slightly different because they have different amounts of salt in them.

Your task is to make samples 1, 2, 3 and 4 using cups, salt, water and the table of measurements below.

Sample No.	Water	Salt
1	200ml	2 grams
2	200ml	7-8 grams
3	200ml	1 gram
4	200ml	60 grams

Make sure to mix the salt in well with a spoon. (This might take a little while for sample 4 but should still work.)

Once you've finished mixing, dip your finger into each cup and have a very small taste. (Note: you only need to taste a very small amount, so make sure you don't drink it. It would be like swallowing real sea water – not very nice and not very good for you!)

CHALLENGE TIME

This challenge involves some world geography, and it's pretty difficult so you might want to ask an adult to help you search for clues on the internet!

Can you match up the four cups of water you made with the four places shown on the map? To do this, you'll need to think about how fresh water gets in and out of the different seas.

(Hint: a sea can be made less salty if there's lots of rain or melting ice in the area. It can be made more salty if lots of water evaporates.)



This activity sheet was written by Elizabeth Siddle and Jack Mustafa, postgraduate researchers in the School of Environmental Sciences at the University of East Anglia.

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