Recycled Water Assessment Sheet – Answer Key

Pre-Activity Assessment: To understand the treatment of wastewater, one must understand the water cycle and nitrogen cycle.


2. Answer the following questions about WWTP.

   If the Earth’s water cycle goes through these four stages:
   Evaporation → Condensation → Precipitation → Collection

   a. Which of these four stages are we taking too much of and overusing, which is contributing to our drought?

   Collection

   b. Why is it important to remove the large objects with a Bar Screen in the pretreatment process?

   Large objects can damage the pumps and other components of the system.


4. Answer the following questions about the Nitrogen Cycle. During the nitrification, ammonia (NH₄⁺) and ammonia (NH₃) is converted to nitrite (NO₂⁻), then nitrate (NO₃⁻), and finally it goes through denitrification where nitrate becomes nitrogen gas (N₂).

   a. Where is the evidence for the nitrogen gas found?

   NH₄⁺/ NH₃ → NO₂⁻ → NO₃⁻ → N₂

   The evidence for the nitrogen gas is the gas found in the atmosphere – approximately 70%.

   b. When bacteria are breaking down nitrogen compounds, what gas do they need in order to process and break down nitrogen compounds? How does the WWTP add this gas to the bacterial sludge? Please explain.

   The bacteria need oxygen gas to decompose nitrogen compounds. The WWTP uses bubblers during the aeration stage.
Activity-Embedded (Formative) Assessment

5. Place the following processes for treating wastewater in the correct order:

   a. Secondary Clarifier
   b. Bar Screens
   c. Aeration Basin
   d. Grit Chamber
   e. Disinfection
   f. Primary Clarifier

   Bar Screens
   Grit Chamber
   Primary Clarifiers
   Aeration Basin
   Secondary Clarifiers
   Disinfection

6. Sketch and design your home wastewater treatment device in the space below. Designs vary by group. Parts and materials should be labeled. Each group’s sketch should clearly explain their device’s water-cleaning process. It should cover all phases of treating blackwater. (See Rubric #4 Score).
7. Testing: Below is a template of a data table that an engineer would use to test your device.
   a. Think about what tests you might want to incorporate that would test the efficiency of your device – pH (acidity), solids, turbidity (clarity of water), etc.

   b. What tests do you think would be the most important to test your device’s efficiency? Label your column headings. Just write the Test Type in the column headings. Do NOT fill the rest of the data table.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rubric</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Test Type</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Initial</td>
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<tr>
<td>Middle</td>
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<td>Final</td>
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   Other possible answers: TIN, TKN, Total Nitrogen, Nitrites, Nitrates, Organic Nitrogen, Ammonia Nitrogen.

8. Engineering: Create your home wastewater treatment device using the materials provided.

9. Hand this sheet to another group and have them score your project. They should circle the appropriate score AND provide suggestions for improvement.

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<th>Rubric</th>
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<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Group’s sketch clearly explained their device’s water-cleaning process. It covered all phases of treating blackwater. The model reflects their sketch.</td>
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Suggestions for improvement: