

Lumber River Black Water Tea – Explore Outdoors

Name: _____

The Lumber River has naturally black water. It isn't dirty. The dark coloration is very similar to how tea leaves soaked in water make our sweat tea. As rainwater soaks through a flooded swamp forest, chemicals called tannins dissolve in the water from plant material like leaves, sticks, and roots. Slow-moving water in the swamp forest allows time for more tannins to dissolve and turn the water black.

Make Your Own Forest Tea

Clean an empty jar. Empty spaghetti sauce, pickle or peanut butter jars work well. Go outside in your neighborhood and collect a variety of leaves and sticks. Fill the jar halfway with plant material. Then fill with water and screw the lid on tightly. Observe the color of the water over a couple of weeks. Use the space below to record the date and your observations. Sketch, insert photos or describe your forest tea over time in the space below.

Date: _____

Time: ___ 0 ___ Days

Date: _____

Time: ___ Days

Date: _____

Time: ___ Days

Explore a Neighborhood Wetland

Scientists describe wetlands by their plants, soils and hydrology (movement of water). You may not have swamp in your neighborhood, but you may be able to find a wetland. Some wetlands do not have water visible on the surface, but the soils are very wet. Look for an area that tends to stay wet. Describe any difference you notice in the plants, soils and hydrology below.

Describe Your Wetland:

Sketch or Insert a picture: