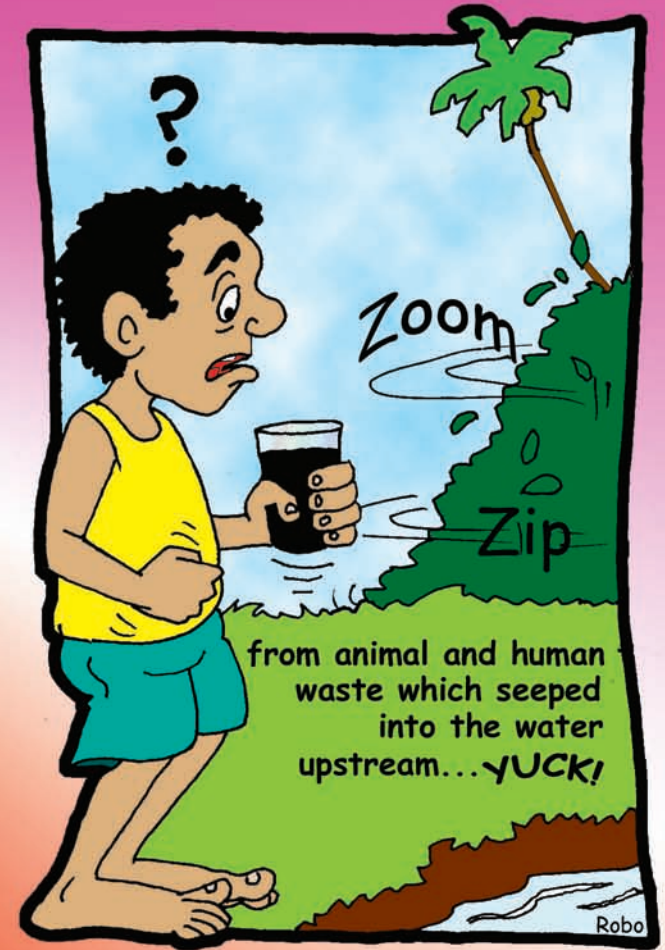


# If it's Drinking Water, don't guess...

# It's best to use the Test.



BOOKLET PRODUCED BY:



**LIVE & LEARN**  
ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION



# FOREWORD

**“Healthy Water - Healthy People!”**

It is important to learn about the situation in your community - where the water supply is coming from; how safe it is; what it is being used for; how it is being polluted or wasted; and what you can do to prevent pollution and conserve water.

By being better informed, you can participate more actively in decisions concerning the use and management of your water resources. You can motivate your community to plan and take action to protect your health and your environment.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

World Health Organization South Pacific Office

Curriculum Development Unit, Fiji

Ministry of Health, Fiji

Institute of Applied Sciences, University of the South Pacific, Fiji

Pacific Islands Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC)

School of General Studies,

Kinoya National Water Quality Laboratory.

Waila Pumping Station & Wailoku Treatment Plant, Water and Sewerage Department

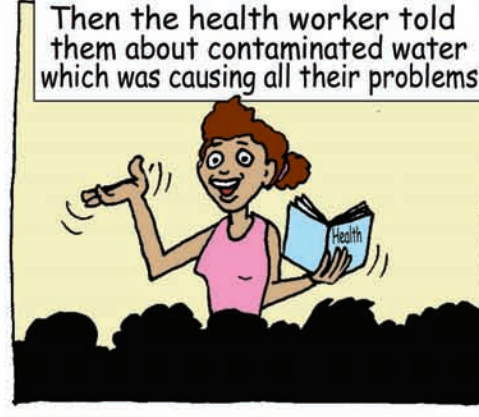
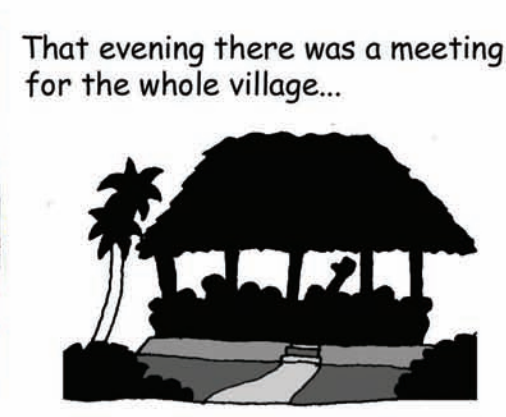
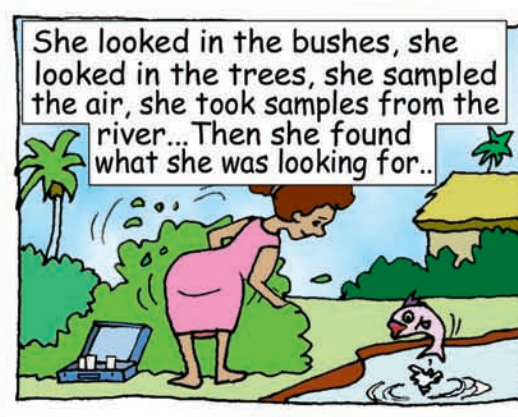
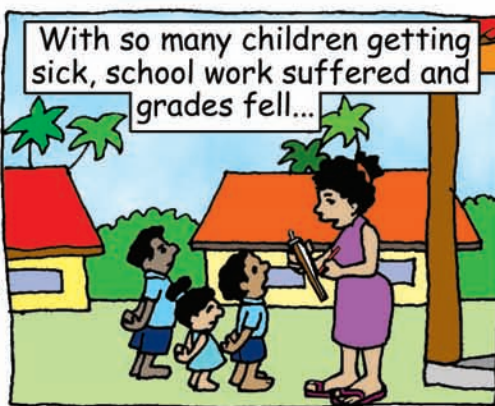
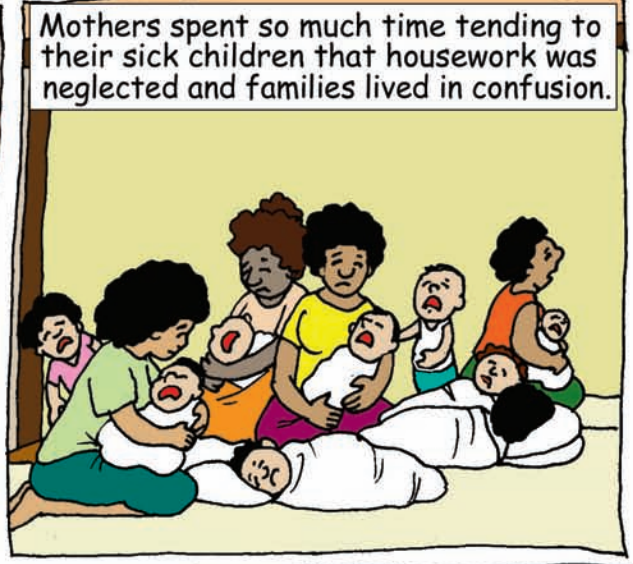
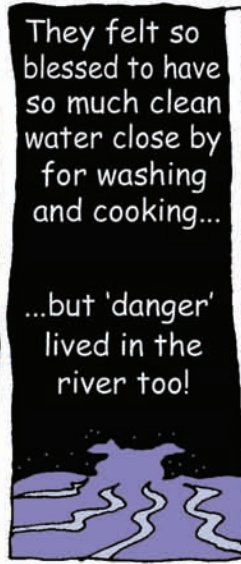
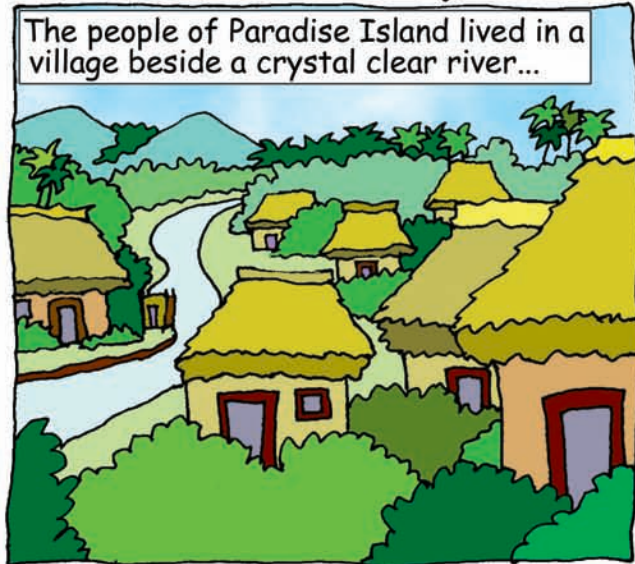
Nailega and Veinuqa Villages

Primary & Secondary School Teachers

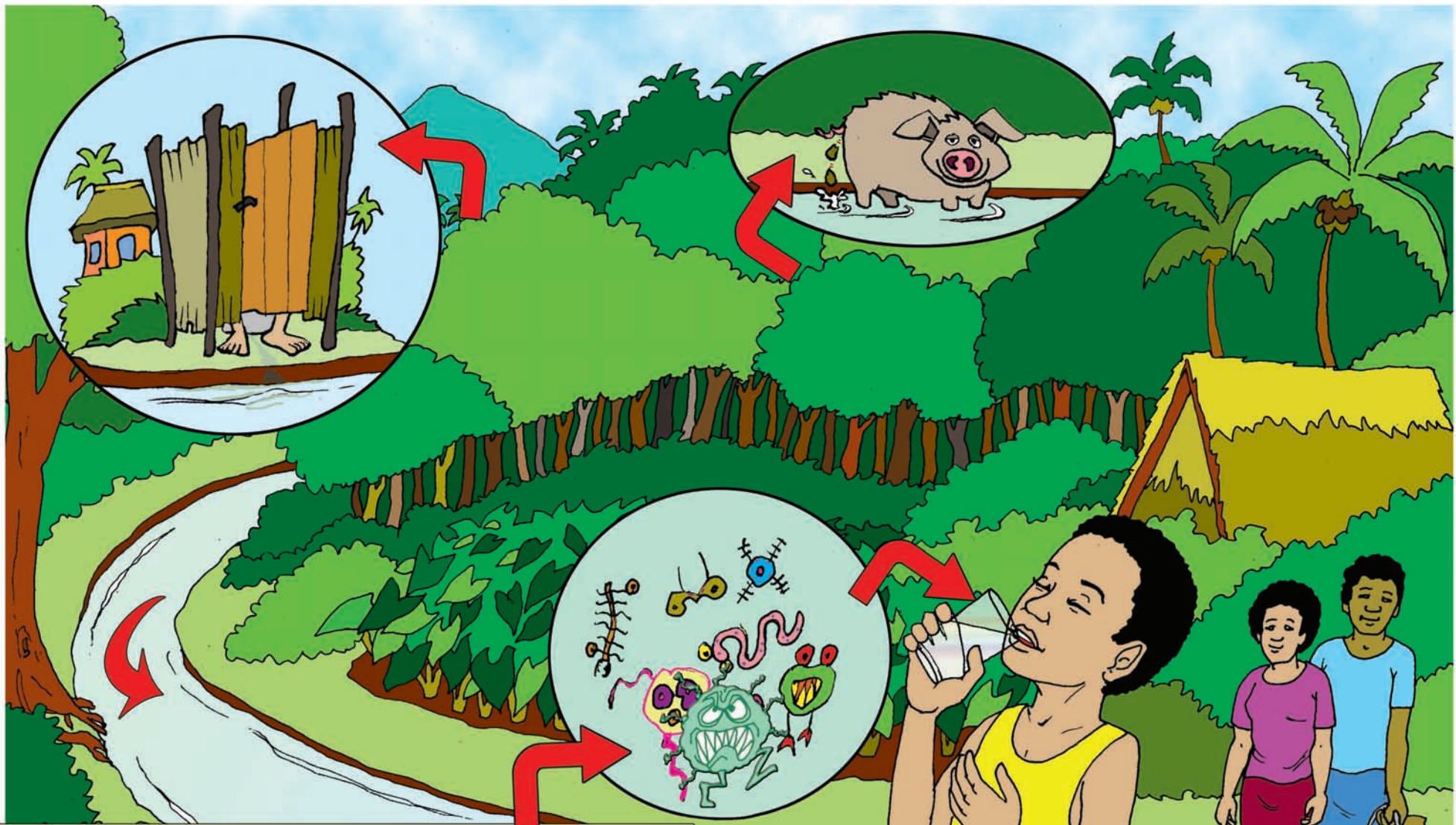
H<sub>2</sub>S Working Group Members

Mr. John Robinson, Cartoonist/Illustrator

# Water, water everywhere but not a drop clean enough to drink...



But what can they do about it?



We cannot assume that water is safe just because it is clear, because many contaminants, including bacteria and heavy metals, are either microscopic or dissolved in the water making them invisible to our naked eyes.

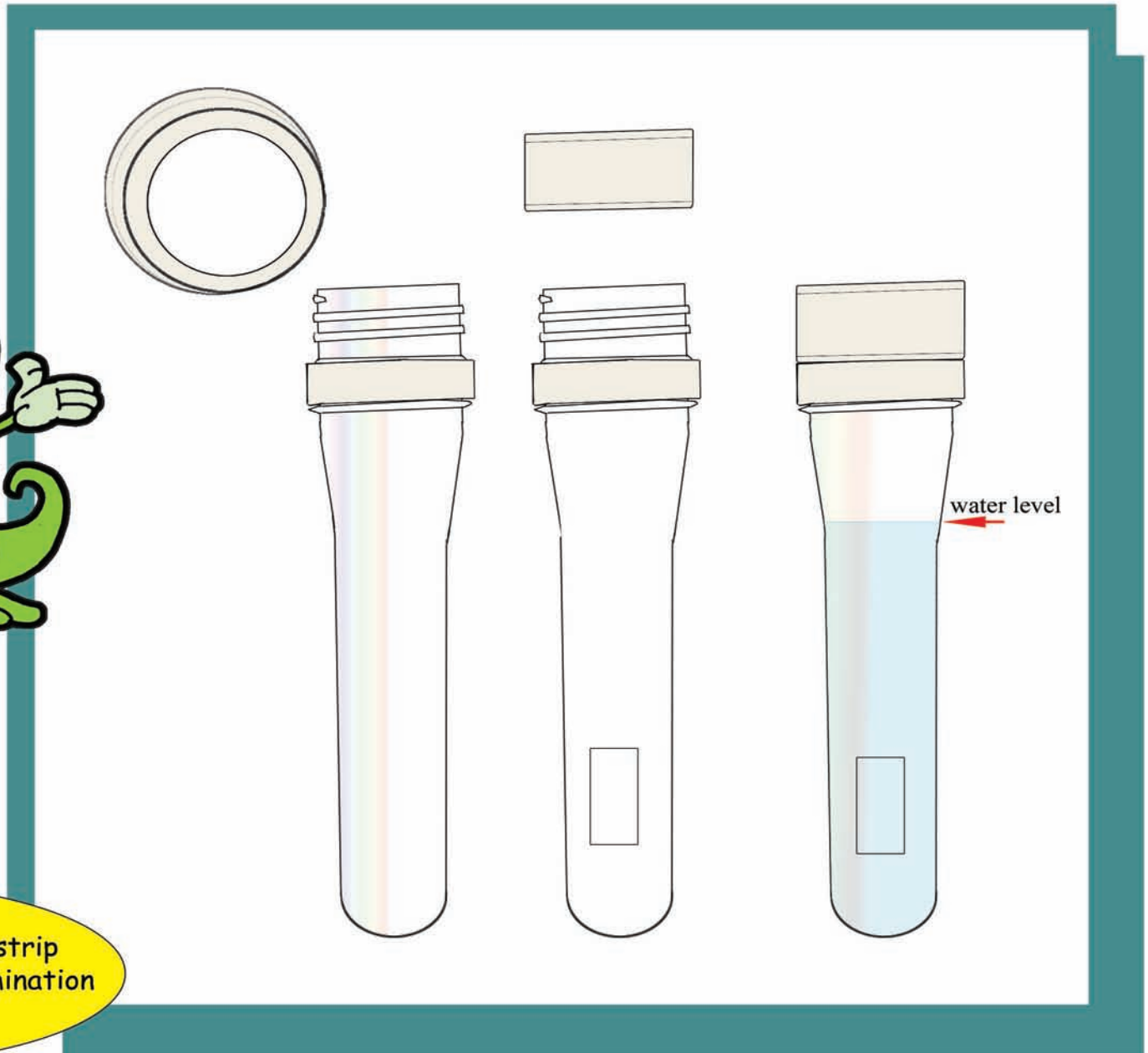
Coliform bacteria, commonly found in faecal matter are often associated with pathogenic organisms. Coliform bacteria lives in the intestines of both human and animals and discharged in their faeces. If these organisms are found in water, it is considered unsafe to drink.

This is why we need to test our drinking water regularly.



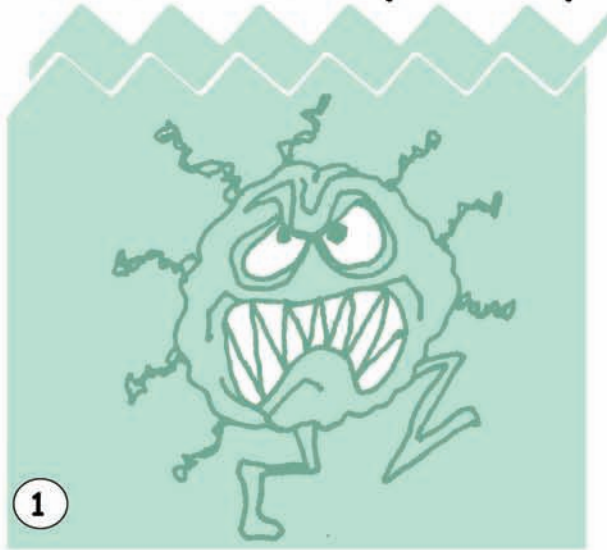
## The Test...

We can test if our drinking water is safe enough to drink by using the **HYDROGEN SULPHIDE (H<sub>2</sub>S)** Paperstrip Test



The H<sub>2</sub>S Test uses a paperstrip to test for bacterial contamination in our drinking water.

# How the H<sub>2</sub>S Paper strip Test Works:

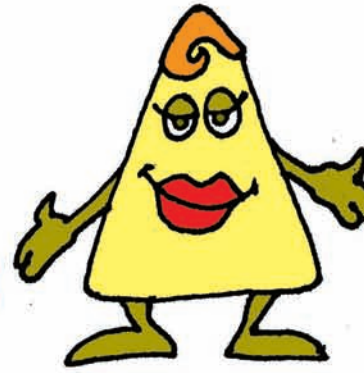


1

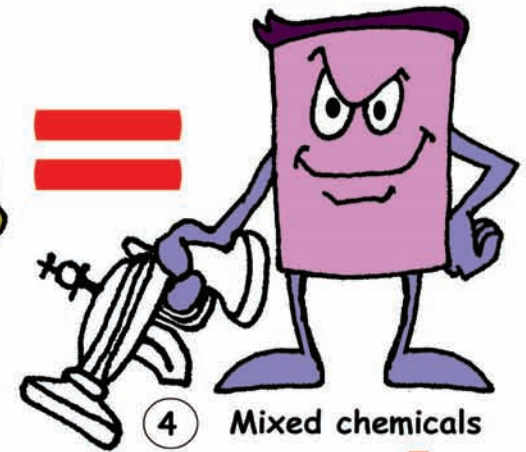
Contaminated Water



2



3



4

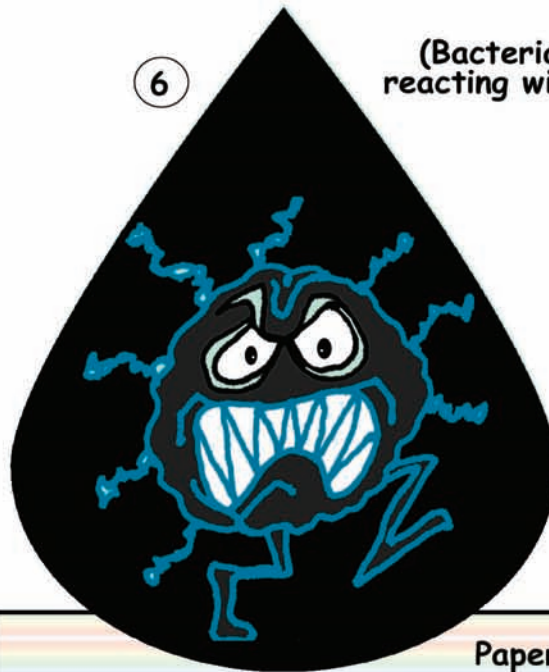
Mixed chemicals



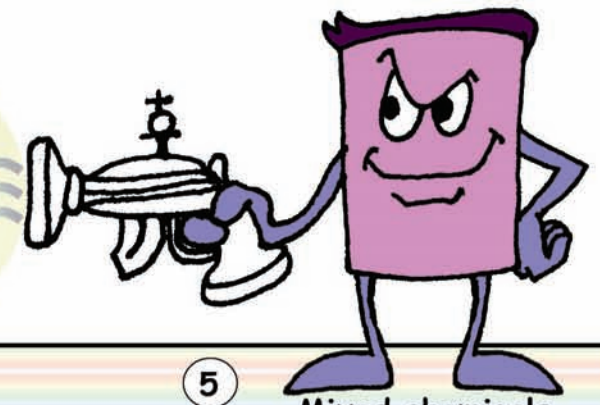
- 1 A sample of the water to be tested is collected.....
- 2 A chemical.....
- 3 is mixed with other chemicals .....
- 4 The resulting mixture.....
- 5 is then placed on a paper strip....
- 6 The treated paper strip will turn the water black if it is contaminated.

6

(Bacteria in water reacting with chemicals)



Paper strip



5

Mixed chemicals

# When do we need to test our drinking water?



Whenever we get our water from streams, wells, water tanks or any other source other than a government monitored water treatment plant, the water .....



needs to be boiled.....



or tested.....

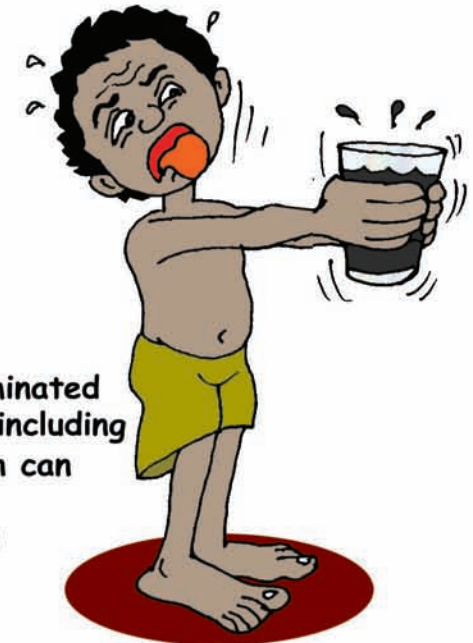


Otherwise it would be the same as taking our water out of our toilet.....

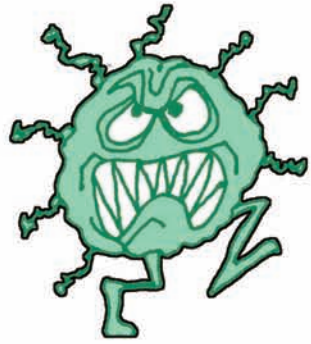


The water may look clean.....

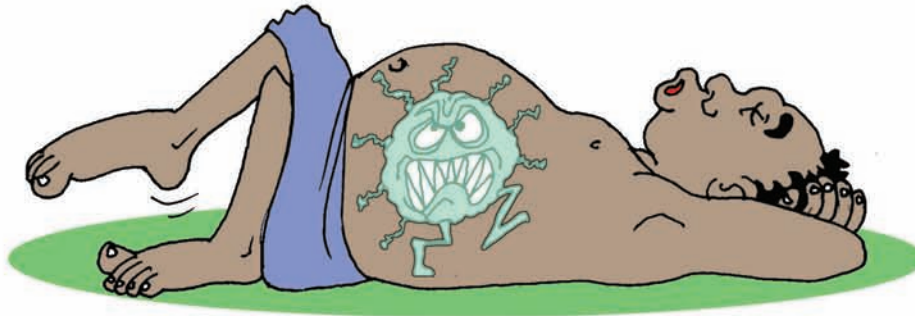
but it is in fact contaminated by dangerous bacteria including the coliform type which can cause the spread of water-related diseases like diarrhoea, typhoid and many more.



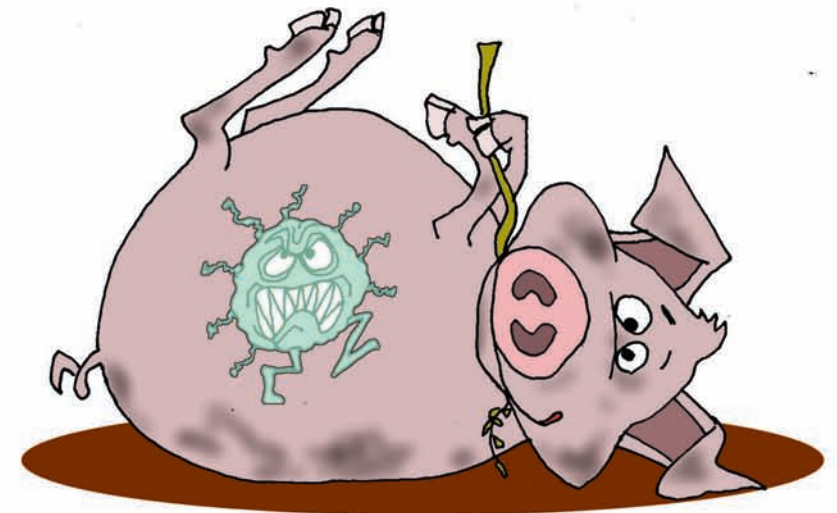
# Why we need to care for our water quality:



Coliform Bacteria...



lives in the intestines of both humans...



and animals.



The bacteria is discharged...



through faeces into streams...



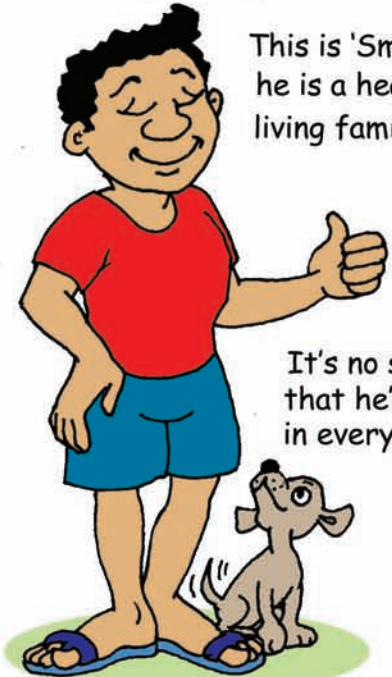
and if the water is drunk...



that person becomes infected too and may contact serious health problems.

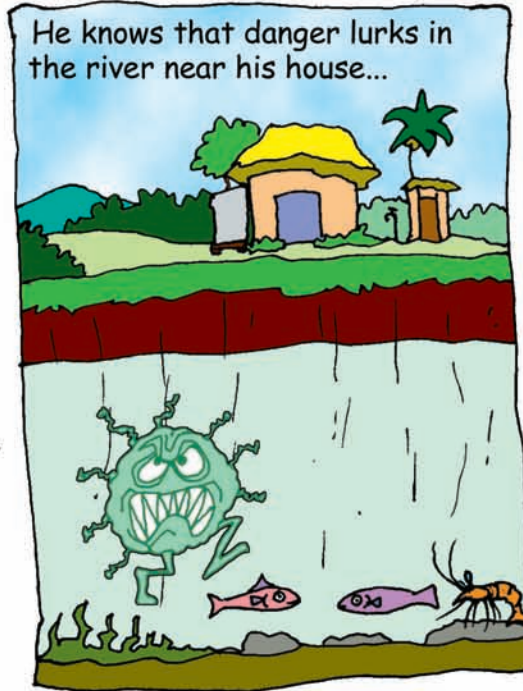


# I am Sam...



This is 'Smart Sam'  
he is a healthy  
living family man.....

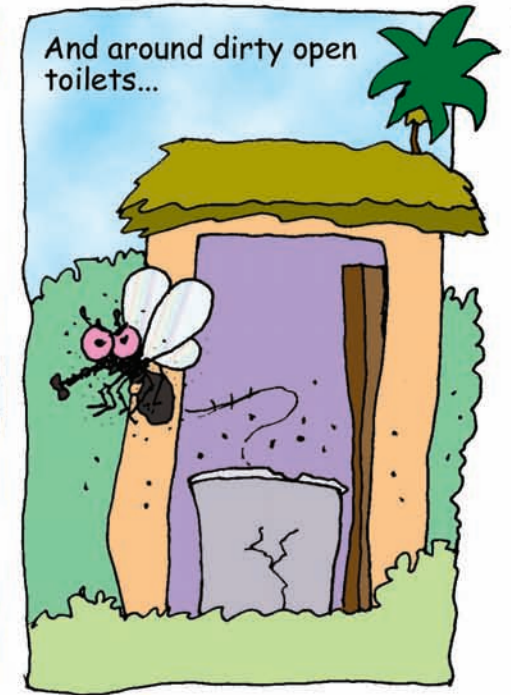
It's no surprise  
that he's so wise  
in everyone's eyes...



He knows that danger lurks in  
the river near his house...



And lurks in  
dirty water  
tanks...



And around dirty open  
toilets...



So he gets his family to boil  
all their tank and river water  
and cover all their food...

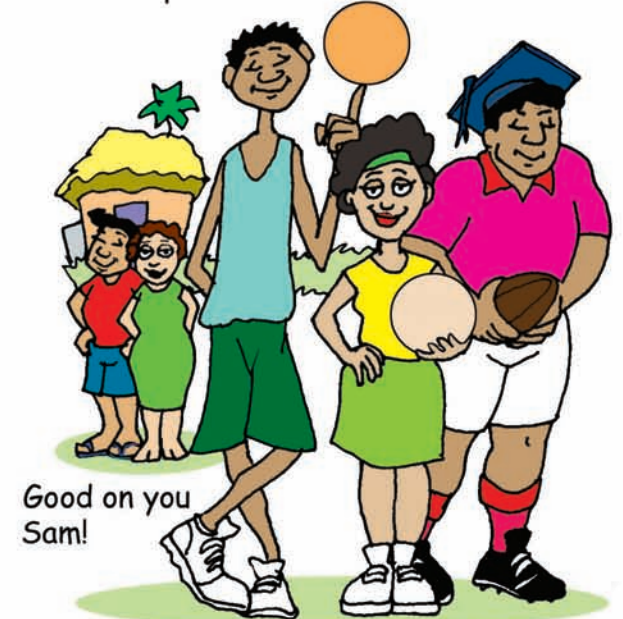


He also cleans the water tank  
regularly during the rainy  
season and cleans up all the  
rubbish on his  
property...



He also keeps his toilet  
clean and gets his family  
to wash their hands after  
using it...

That is why his family is healthy and  
excel at sports and school.



Good on you  
Sam!

# The Silly Willi story...

Silly Willi is an unhygienic man...  
He always feels tired and lacks energy...



He drinks water anywhere,  
just as long as it looks clean...



He never cleans his  
rusty, leaking water tank...



And sometimes eats food in odd  
places without washing his  
hands...



He even built his toilet on the  
high ground above the well his  
family uses to get water...



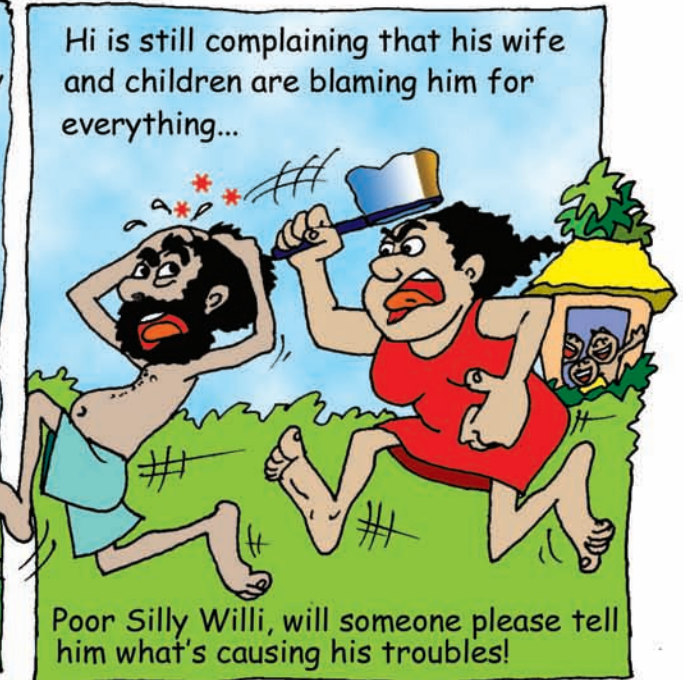
He can't understand why his  
family is so sickly. This causes  
his kids to miss school often  
and has lost him  
his job in town...



Silly Willi complained to  
God for allowing his family  
to go through so much  
misfortune...



Hi is still complaining that his wife  
and children are blaming him for  
everything...



Poor Silly Willi, will someone please tell  
him what's causing his troubles!





# Clean Water means Healthy Living, so...



**Wise up...**

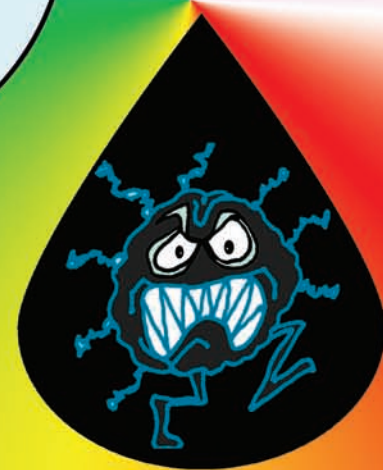
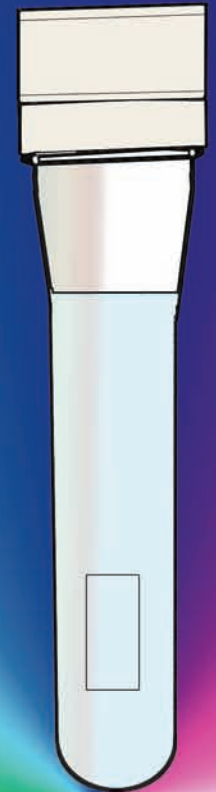
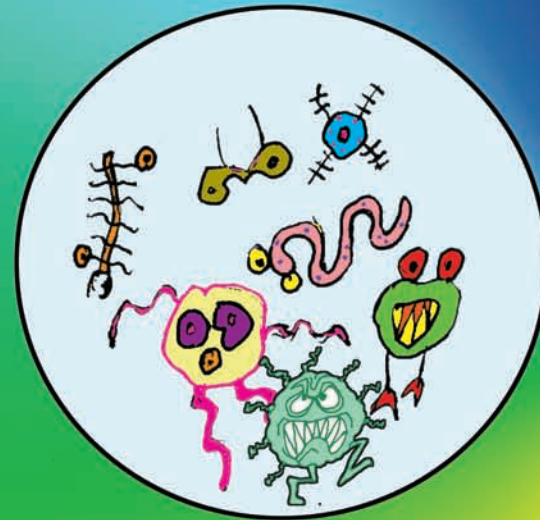
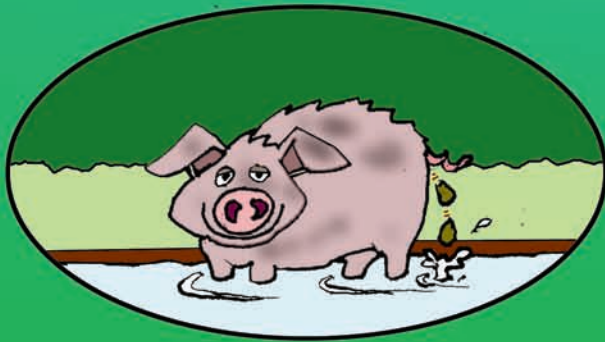


**Check up...**



**Drink up.**

# Don't Wait...Decontaminate!



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World Health Organization



Australian Government  
AusAID

**SOPAC**