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Making Cents Of H₂O

This project was invented to determine if the cost of water was a result of the water's taste. Fiji, Big K, filtered tap water, and tap-water were poured into separately labeled cups. Worksheets were given to the subjects. The 7th grade subjects went two at a time to taste each cup of different water, and then wrote down their guesses. Subjects were not allowed to discuss their answers. The subjects tasted the different waters individually, and then attempted to identify the type of water. As each 7th grader finished, worksheets were collected. After the data was collected and put into a data table, graphs were designed. From there final results were determined. Fiji, expensive bottled water; Big K, cheap bottled water; and filtered tap-water tasted about the same. This was indicated by 54% of the students guessing that filtered water was either cheap or expensive bottled water. In addition, 46% of students thought that cheap bottled water tasted like expensive bottled water, and 36% of students guessed that expensive bottled water was cheap bottled water. The results of this project show that waters taste similarly, although they are priced differently. From this experiment one can conclude that water purchased in bottles is for the convenience of the bottle and not the taste. The subjects in this experiment could not tell the difference between expensive bottled water, cheap bottled water, and filtered tap-water, but the students were able to identify tap-water.