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*Nitrates and Nitrites in Different Sources of Water*

Many people don't think about their water quality and just trust the city's municipal water supply, but what really is the concentration of naturally occurring nitrogen in different sources. Should you be worried about the quality of the water you drink? Are nitrate and nitrite levels dangerously high near your home? In 1905 Greeley choose to get their water from the mountains, because they knew they would run into nitrate and nitrite problems with the agricultural and residential runoff. My project looks at the concentration in parts per million nitrates and nitrates in different sources of water as a test of water quality. I tested for them using test strips and holding them up to a scale after holding them in the sampled water for two seconds. Fertilizer and runoff are the major causes of nitrates and nitrites and soaks into the soil therefore getting into our wells. My hypothesis was that well water and ground water were going to test the highest of all of the sources tested. The independent variable was the different sources of water and the dependent variable was the nitrates and nitrites. My results showed that surface-water tested the highest and well water tested the second highest. Nitrite levels are normally unstable because of their chemical composition. Fish and plants that live in the water with nitrates and nitrites are deprived of oxygen because nitrates absorb and attach to the oxygen in the water, and therefore eventually killing all plant and animal life depending on the levels.