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*A Penny for Your Thoughts*

The purpose of this experiment is to determine and understand the effects of copper sulfate in an aquatic environment. With this experiment, daily observations for five days were taken to determine how different amounts of copper sulfate affected aquatic environments. Three tanks were used for the experiment. The first tank was the control with no added copper sulfate. Tank two had .2 parts per million of copper sulfate and tank three had .4 parts per million of copper sulfate. The third tank had the most copper sulfate and started to have an effect on the aquatic environment much quicker than the other two. Snails and anacharis plants were used. The snails in tank two and tank three died presumably from the copper sulfate. The snail in the control tank lived. In tank two and three the anacharis plants became a darker green than tank one and smelled different. My hypothesis was that the tank with the greater amount of copper sulfate would have the most detrimental effect on the aquatic environment. The data from the experiment supported my hypothesis. Copper sulfate is indeed detrimental to aquatic ecosystems if the concentration is too high. Copper sulfate is used to control algae and some mollusks in fresh water and is also used in froth flotation mining processes and is found in mine tailings. The EPA says that 1 part per million is the acceptable level for copper sulfate in drinking water, my experiment was below this level.