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NEWS

In the October 2011 issue, we introduced you to the International Year of Chemistry (IYC) Global Water Experiment. Since then, more than 70 ChemClubs joined thousands of other students around the world by participating in this exciting event.

ChemClub members completed one of four experiments, with most clubs collecting local water samples and measuring their pH. They submitted their data to the global water experiment map at: <http://water.chemistry2011.org/web/iyc/experiment1-results>. This map represents data from schools and chemistry clubs around the world.

ChemClub students collected samples from local rivers, lakes, streams, and ponds. Collection methods varied among clubs: Some students collected water samples directly, while others created collection devices. One student even recounts falling in the river!

The experiment that most ChemClubs performed was "pH of the Planet." The students first tested their water samples by using the acid-base indicator bromothymol blue. After students added the indicator to their samples, they compared the resulting color with a chart to determine the pH. If the pH was 7.6 or greater, they further tested it by using the indicator *m*-cresol purple.

The pH of the water samples tested throughout the United States averaged 7.2, indicating mostly neutral water. The water samples of Mali and Paraguay showed more acidic water, whereas Australia, France, and Russia had more basic water.

Some ChemClubs completed the other three experiments, as well. In one experiment, students boiled their samples to determine the amount of salt dissolved in it. In another experiment, students built a filtration device to purify the water. In the last experiment, students built a solar still to distill their water samples.

Thank you to the ChemClubs that participated in the Global Water Experiment and played a part in what organizers hoped would become the biggest chemistry experiment ever.

—ChemClub Staff



Above: A student from Cheney High School, Cheney, Kan., collects water samples for the IYC Global Water Experiment.

Upper right: Students from Ottawa Township High School, Ottawa, Ill., collect water samples collected from a nearby river.

Lower right: Students from Lenape High School, Medford, N.J., measure the pH of water collected from a nearby river.

The International Chemistry Olympiad is coming back to the United States!

The International Chemistry Olympiad is a competition that brings together the world's most talented high school students to test their knowledge and skills in chemistry. This year, the week-long event will be held in the United States. The race to become one of the four top high school students who will join the U.S. team has already started. Read about it at: www.acs.org/olympiad. Then, starting July 21, follow the performances of all 73 international teams at: www.icho2012.org.



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