

Family Link with Science—Home Activity

Wondering About Wells

Today your child learned that many people get their drinking water from underground sources. If your family's tap water comes from a groundwater well, help your child answer the following questions based on your own household. If your family does not get its water from a well, help your child find someone who uses a well who they can interview using the following questions. Think about friends and relatives who live in other towns or regions of the country—especially those who don't live near a body of surface water.

Try to find someone who gets their home drinking water from a well. Talk to them about the following questions. Make notes about their answers underneath each question, or on a separate sheet of paper. If the person you are talking to doesn't know the answer to any of the questions, make note of that, too.

- Where is your well? Do you know how deep it is?
- Do you have any idea how it works? If so, how would you explain it? (How does the water get from the well to the faucet?)
- Has your well ever had to be repaired or re-drilled?
- Do you ever have your well checked or cleaned?
- Do you ever have your water tested?
- Do you try to limit use of pollutants that might enter your groundwater and your well? If so, how?
- Can you taste a difference between the water from your well and other water you've drunk (for example, bottled water or tap water that isn't supplied by a well)?

This activity is optional.