

A Civil Action
Student Worksheet

Name: _____

1. What is the problem?
2. Who is affected by the problem?
3. Who is now involved?
4. What are some things that you already know about the case?
5. As the environmental scientist involved in this case, what is your job? What can you do to help solve the case? List the things that you would like to test.

You have just received word from the lab that the water tests came back and the well water contains a hazardous chemical called trichloroethylene (TCE). TCE is often used as a solvent in industrial processes and belongs to a family of chemicals we commonly call VOCs (Volatile Organic Compounds). They are highly toxic and found to be *carcinogenic*, or cancer causing.

6. How should we test the water to determine where the TCE came from? Where should we start? What variables should we take into consideration?

7. How could you be sure about who caused the contamination?