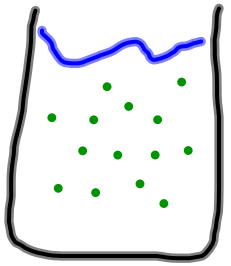
Turbidity:

Cloudiness of water → it measures particles that are suspended in water.

particles: small pieces of other stuff

suspended: motion of the water keeps the particles from sinking



Turbidity increases:

- When particles are added to the water (erosion, pollution)
- When the water starts moving faster (it can hold more & heavier particles)

Turbidity decreases:

- When water moves more slowly (particles will fall to the bottom-heaviest 1st)
- When particles are filtered out (physical structures, organisms, humans)

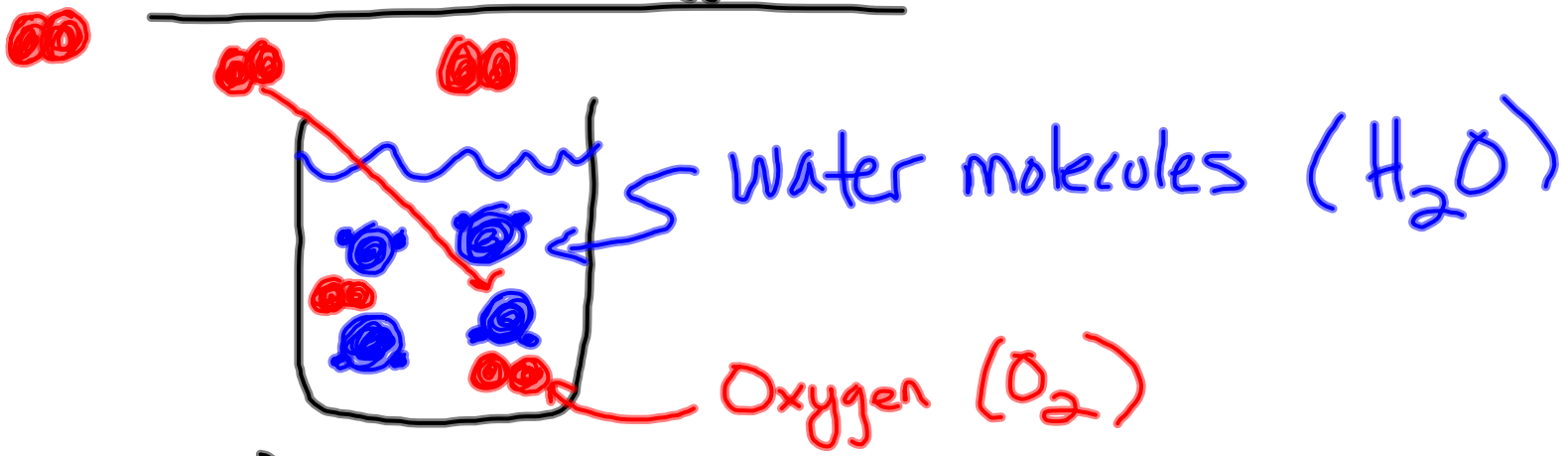
How does turbidity affect organisms?

- Turbidity can clog organisms' gills (they can't breathe as easily)
- Plants may not get enough sunlight
- The particles might be helpful to some organisms (or toxic to others)
- Turbid water can be warmer - that means it has less oxygen — which is not good for some organisms

Turbidity affects drinking water:

- Particles might be harmful
- Turbid water might not taste, feel, or smell good

Dissolved Oxygen:



Oxygen molecules that are stuck in water

DO will increase if:

- We stir or churn or mix up the water
- We lower the temperature of the water
- We add aquatic plants

DO will decrease if:

- Water stays still
- Water heats up
- Plants are removed

DO & water quality:

- Lots of organisms (fish, aquatic insect larvae, snails) get their oxygen through DO
- For drinking water, DO doesn't matter