

## Measuring Water Clarity

### Introduction

Welcome to the Measuring Water Clarity learning module. This section contains a short video that provides information on the following topic:

- How to measure water clarity using a Secchi disk

After completing this module you should be able to perform the following:

- Identify a Secchi disk and its parts
- Use a Secchi disk to measure the clarity of a water sample

To begin the module, click the **Next** button at the bottom right of the screen.

## Measuring Water Clarity

### Identifying a Secchi disk and its parts

SCORE volunteers estimate water clarity by measuring Secchi depth. Secchi depth is measured using an instrument called a Secchi disk, like the one shown on your screen. Before learning how to measure Secchi depth, take a moment to identify the different parts of a Secchi disk.

## Measuring Water Clarity

### Procedures

A Secchi disk consists of a weighted plate attached to a rope that has been marked at measured intervals. Blue or black markings on the rope indicate 5 centimeter (cm) lengths, while red markings indicate 50 cm lengths.

Secchi depth can be measured by slowly lowering the disk into the water and averaging the depths at which the disk disappears and then reappears as it is raised.

To begin, slowly lower the Secchi disk into the creek or river and be sure to count the measured intervals as you go.

As soon as the Secchi disk disappears from sight, hold it steady and note the depth.

After noting the disappearance depth, slowly raise the Secchi disk until it reappears and note this depth.

To calculate Secchi depth, you will need to average the disappearance and reappearance depths.

### Try it yourself!

Using the Secchi disk and arrows to the right, estimate water clarity by measuring Secchi depth. Enter your answers below.

When finished, be sure to rinse the Secchi disk and rope in freshwater after use. Allow disk and rope to dry and then wrap the rope neatly around the disk for storage.

### **Measuring Water Clarity Review**

Congratulations! You have completed the Measuring Water Clarity learning module. In this section you learned about the following topic:

- How to measure water clarity using a Secchi disk

You should now be able to perform the following:

- Identify a Secchi disk and its parts
- Use a Secchi disk to measure the clarity of a water sample

To choose another module, click the drop-down menu at the top of the screen.