



gpb.org/lets-go-enviro

Name: _____

Date: _____

MONITORING STREAM HEALTH

There are several ways one can determine and monitor the health of a stream. Some ways require specific equipment, while other observations can be done visually. A simple way to remember how to conduct a visual assessment is the acronym SO SMART.

DIRECTIONS: Choose a local stream to conduct your visual assessment and record your observations. Be sure to wear gloves, rubber boots, and protective eye gear, and ask your teacher or parent for permission and guidance during this activity. Then, write an analysis that explains the health of this stream.

Location of stream: _____

Date of assessment: _____

Weather conditions: _____

SO SMART Visual Habitat Assessment

Record your observations in complete sentences:

Smill (of the water)

Obstructions (anything restricting the water flow)

Sreambed (anything covering the streambed)

Margin or bank (stability, erosion, vegetation)

Apppearance of the water (clarity, color)

Rate of water flow (fast or slow)

Top surface of the water (bubbles, algae)

Based on your observations of this stream, how would you assess its health? Explain your answer in complete sentences using evidence from your observations.
