## Activity Overview

Participants look at a map, consider where contamination or potential exposure may be, and mark where they would want to take samples.

**When to Use It -** Before giving input on plans for:

- testing an exposure site (e.g., school, home, garden) to see if offsite contamination is intruding
- a study design for the cleanup of a hazardous site
- challenging an official sampling plan that might be inadequate

Suggested companion activities:

- Use with other activities from Drawing Your Own Conclusions
- Consult SfA's Soil Quality Guide: Digging in the Dirt for an overview of steps and how the community can give input at the different stages.

## Steps

1. **Launch the activity:** Sampling plans try to answer 3 questions:
   - Where did the contamination come from?
   - Where are people exposed to it?
   - Is the contamination moving off site?
2. **In pairs:** Distribute small copies of the map of the area, or show one large map. First, label the map with sticky notes telling what people know about the testing area. Use the 3 questions as a guide. For reviewing a proposed sampling plan, ask whether the plan will answer the 3 questions. Use mark other places they should sample.
3. **Debrief:**
   - Did we get everything? Is there anything missing?
   - If the final sampling plan only calls for [four, eight, half as many] samples, which of these would we keep and which could we skip?

## Worth Noting

The example shows a small site, but you can also use this for a large area surrounding a smokestack. In large areas, it's not practical to sample everywhere, but you can take a first set of samples, and the results will help decide where to take a second set of samples later. Some questions may be more important, depending on the situation. A group living near a fenced-off site may not care where contamination is on the site, but they may care much more about off-site migration. Be prepared to respond to group priorities.

## Smart Moves

- Use your senses
- Talk it out

Skill: Identify suspected sources of contamination and points of exposure in a contaminated site. Create plan for testing.

Time: 20-30 minutes

### Preparation

Identify the area where you want to take samples (or where samples have already been taken). Find a printable map of the area.

Write the three questions from Step 1 on large paper. Post in the room.

### Materials

One large map of the area and/or small copies of the map to hand out (1 per pair or participant)

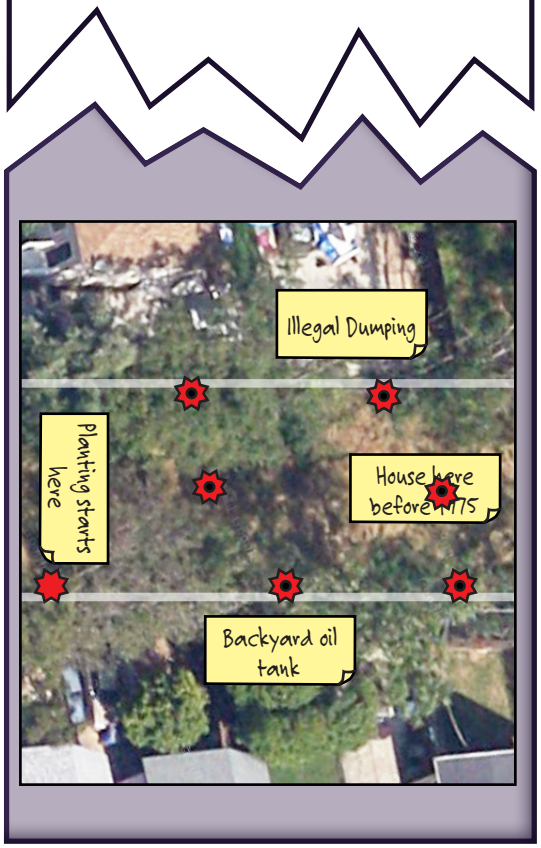
Large paper with questions from Step 1

Sticky notes of different sizes

Small stickers (dots, stars, etc.) to represent possible sampling locations.

Markers and pens

Optional: Copies of the Example for all participants.



## Example: Turning an abandoned lot into a community garden

1. Label your map with what you know about the history and planned uses for the site or neighborhood. Your labels should help you guess:
   - Where did the contamination come from?
   - Where are people exposed to it?
   - Is the contamination moving off site?


2. Then use stickers (or pencil, then marker) to mark all the places you think they should test. If you might not be able to test all of them, mark the most important ones.