

Students:

Life Cycle Analysis: Tap Water vs. Bottled Water

1. One of the main differences between bottled water and tap water is that tap water comes directly to your house and you have to provide the container (like a glass) in order to drink it. Bottled water comes in its own container. Looking at your life cycle and the handout, list some of the advantages and disadvantages of bottled vs tap water.

Advantages

Tap Water	Bottled Water

Disadvantages

Tap Water	Bottled Water

2. Both the bottled water industry and the municipal (local) water industry provide jobs. However, the location of employment for these two industries differs. For example, the Fiji brand of bottled water may employ people at the bottling facility in Fiji and the Phoenix water treatment facility employs people in Phoenix. Based on the pictures and your handout, list any local jobs you think might be part of the following steps of the bottled and tap water life cycles.

	Tap Water	Bottled Water
Processing		
Transport and Retailing		
Consumption and Use		
End of Life Management (disposal, recycling, reuse)		

3. Given the information you have learned today, which would you choose bottled or tap water and why?

4. Cradle to Grave is a term used in sustainability to describe analyzing the life cycle of a product from its origin (cradle) to its final resting place (grave). Many companies conduct life cycle analysis for their products. List at least one benefit that could come from doing the life cycle analysis.