Investigation Booklet
Representing and Making Meaning from Data

1. How do the benchmarks make your graph data more meaningful?

_That way you can see the EFFECTS of the salt water on the streams. It gives context to the data, a point of comparison._

2. What do you notice when comparing the data from your graphs? How do salt levels compare in forested, suburban, and urban streams? By season? Annually?

1) _Seasonally, the streams have the highest salt content in the winter._
2) _Annually, urban area streams have the highest salt content, followed by suburban areas._

3. So what do the patterns you see in the graph mean? What conclusions can you make from the graphs?

_Salt content in Baltimore area streams increases during winter months, and in places with many roads and high population densities like urban areas._

4. List two impacts of salt entering Baltimore’s drinking water supply.

A. _Baltimore’s water will gradually get saltier making it less tasty and making it unsuitable for drinking by people._

B. _Saltier water will harm the balance of plants and animals living in the water, potentially harming the ecosystem._