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.*