EXPLAINED FOR KIDS BY TOBIAS STEUBE

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FORWARD OSMOSIS

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SOMETIMES IT IS VERY HARD TO CLEAN SOMETHING THAT GOT REALLY DIRTY.



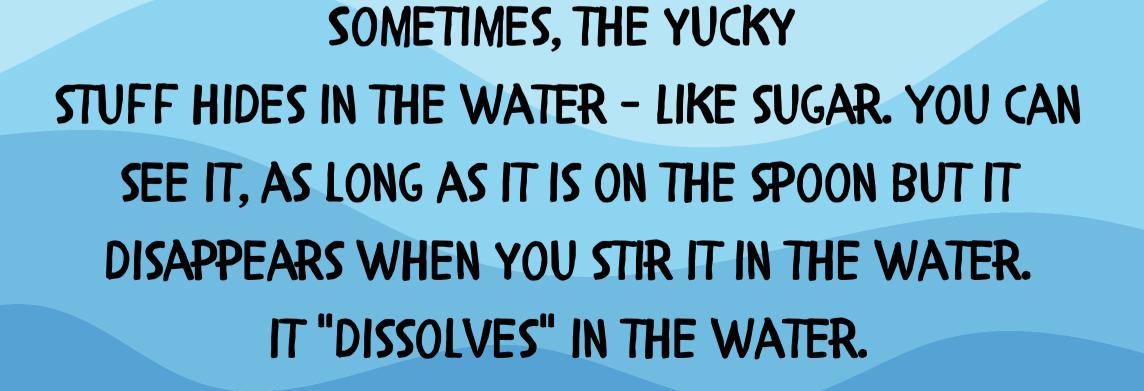
SO IMAGINE, WE'D HAVE A VERY DIRTY SOUP AND WE WANT TO CLEAN IT.



SOMETIMES, THE YUCKY STUFF SWIMS IN THE WATER. THEN, WE SAY IT IS "SUSPENDED" IN THE WATER.



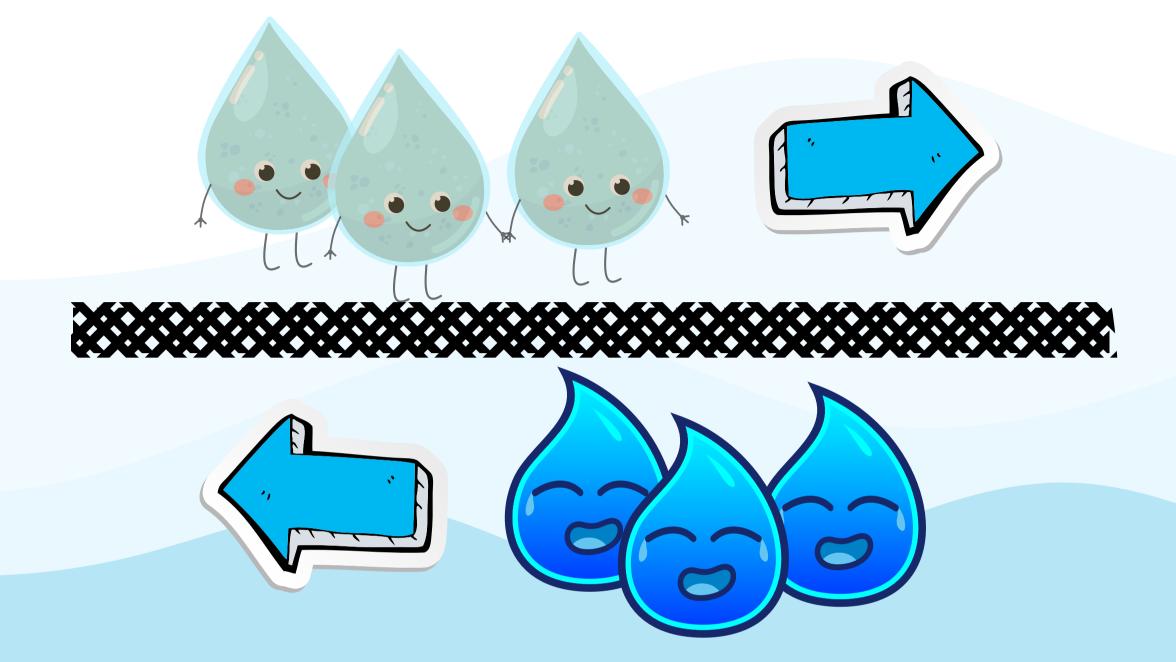
YOU USE A FILTER TO REMOVE THE YUCKY STUFF WHEN IT IS SUSPENDED. THE FILTER IS LIKE A DOOR AND EVERYTHING TOO TALL OR TOO BIG DOESN'T FIT THROUGH THE DOOR.



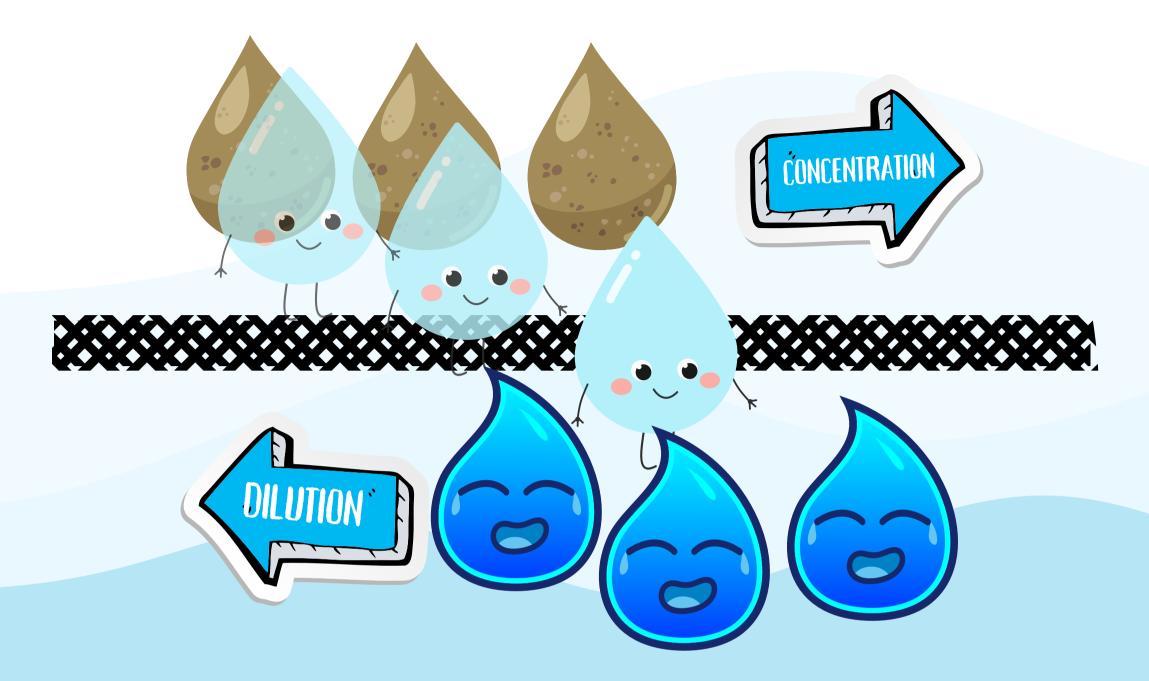




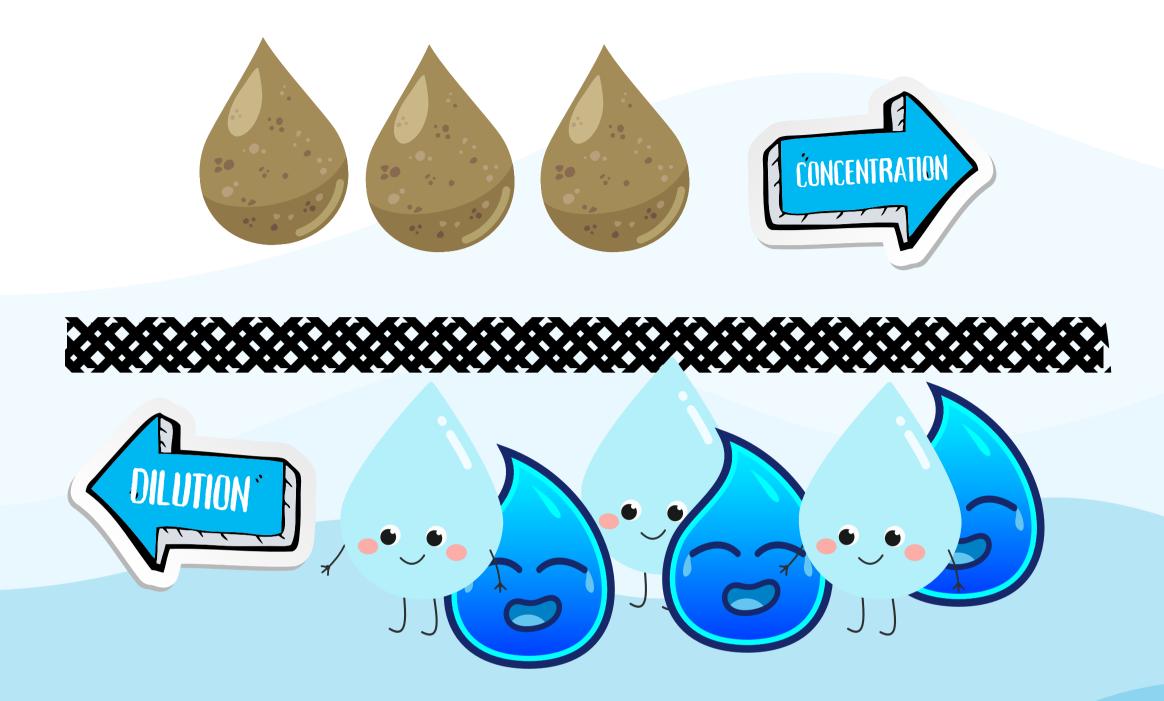
NOW WE ARE USING A TRICK. WITH A SUPERDUPER TIGHT FILTER IN BETWEEN, WATER THAT CARRIES LOW AMOUNTS OF SALT FLOWS INTO THE WATER WITH A HIGH AMOUNT OF SALT. IT ONLY STOPS FLOWING ONCE THERE IS THE SAME CONCENTRATION OF SALT ON BOTH SIDES OF THE FILTER. THIS IS CALLED OSMOSIS.



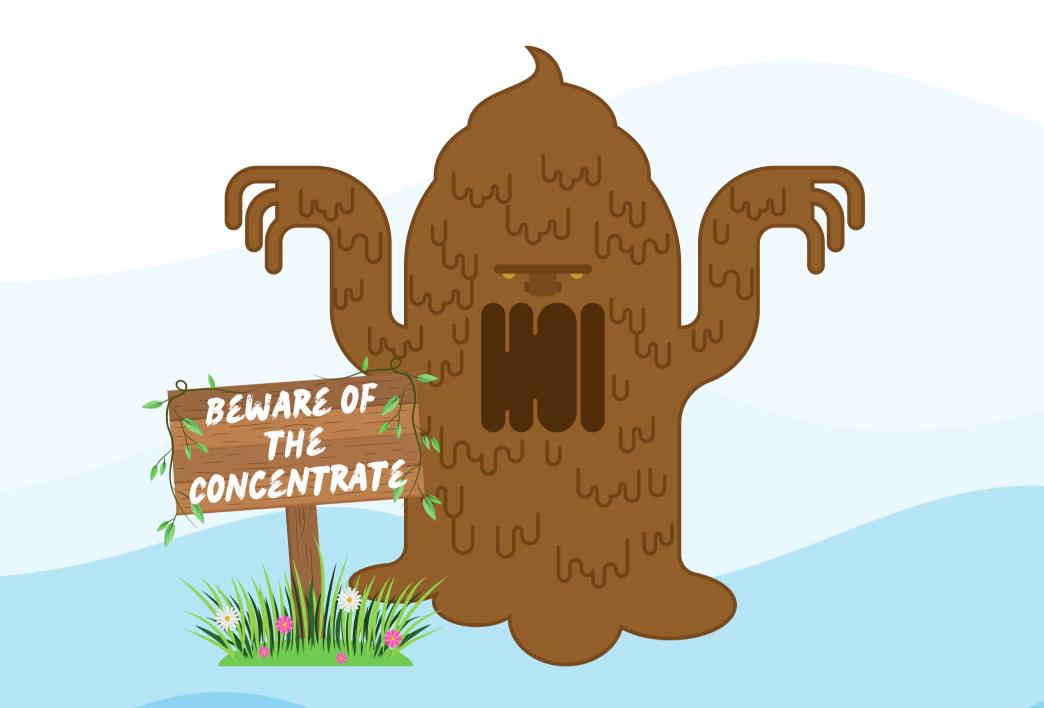
WE CAN USE OSMOSIS TO CLEAN OUR WATER. WE NEED A SPECIAL SUPERDUPER TIGHT FILTER WITH OUR DIRTY SOUP ON THE ONE AND A VERY SALTY WATER ON THE OTHER SIDE OF IT. WE LET THE DIRTY SOUP AND THE SALT WATER FLOW IN OPPOSITE DIRECTIONS.



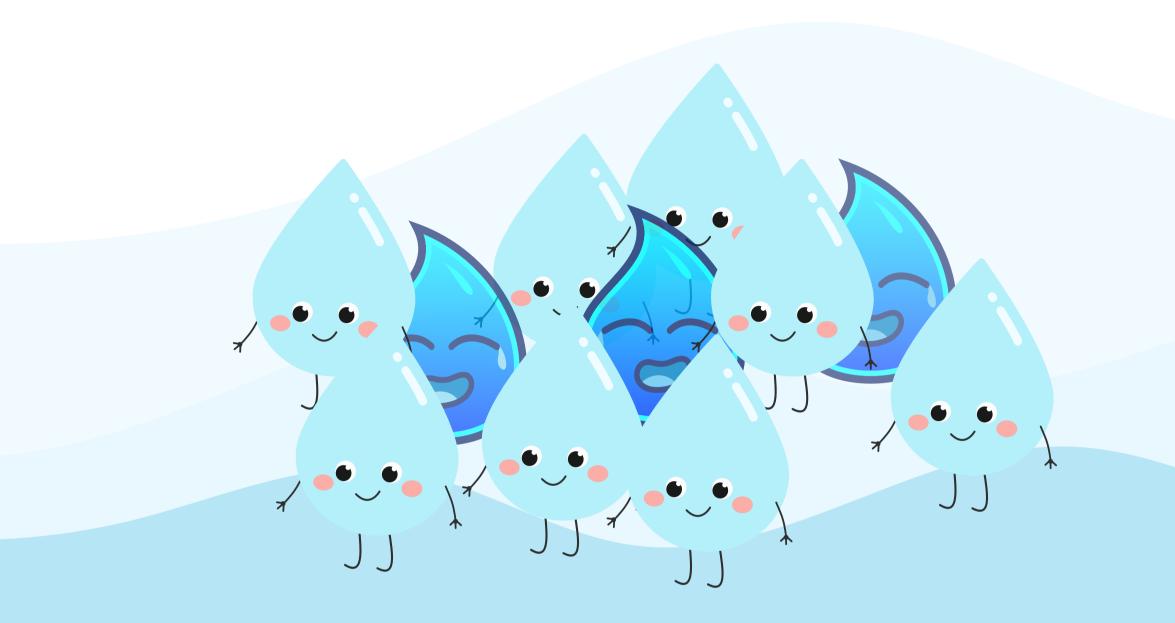
NOW, THE WATER IN THE DIRTY SOUP LIKES THE SALT WAY MORE THAN THE DIRT. IT FLOWS OVER ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE FILTER. SINCE THE SALT WATER ATTRACTS THE WATER IN THE DIRTY SOUP, WE CALL THE SALT WATER THE "DRAW SOLUTION".



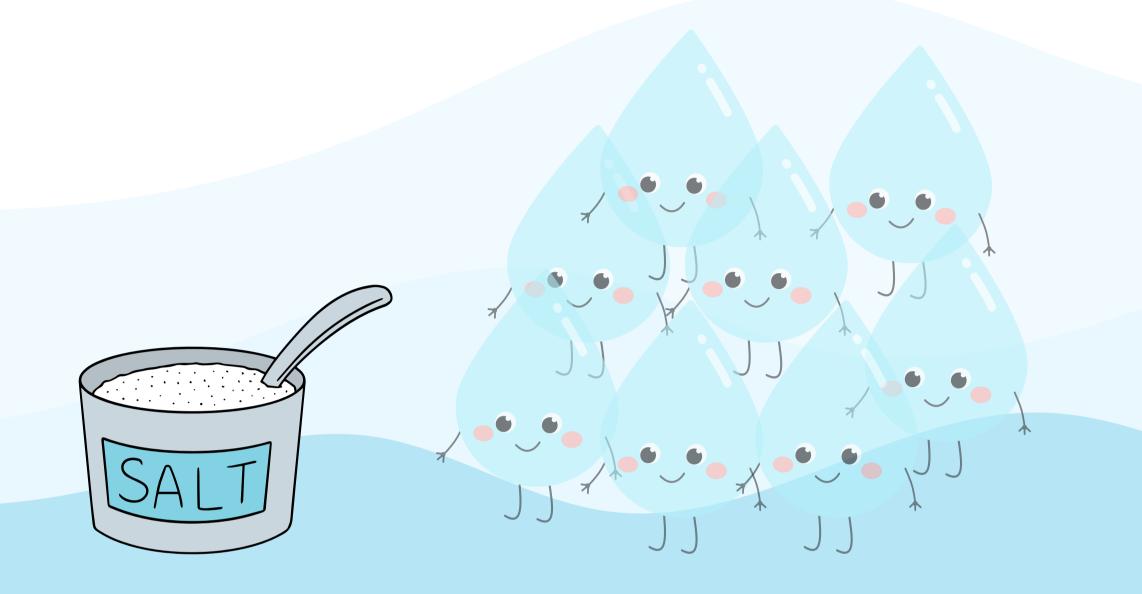
NOW, THAT THE WATER CAME OVER TO THE DRAW SOLUTION, THE DIRT IS LEFT ON THE OTHER SIDE OF OUR SPECIAL SUPERDUPER TIGHT FILTER. THIS PROCESS IS CALLED "FORWARD OSMOSIS".



WITHOUT ALL THE WATER, OUR DIRTY SOUP GOT REALLY THICK. WE'RE NOW CALLING IT A "CONCENTRATE".



WHEN ENOUGH WATER HAS FLOWN INTO THE DRAW SOLUTION, THE DRAW SOLUTION BECOMES LESS AND LESS SALTY. IT IS NOW "DILUTED".



NOW, WE CAN SEPARATE SALT AND WATER FROM THE DILUTED DRAW SOLUTION WITH LITTLE HEAT OR ANOTHER SPECIAL FILTER. WE MADE CLEAN WATER OUT OF A VERY DIRTY SOUP. YAY!



FORWARD OSMOSIS REQUIRES LESSER ENERGY THAN OTHER WATER PURIFICATION METHODS TO MAKE CLEAN WATER OUT OF A VERY DIRTY SOUP. THAT'S WHY IT IS USED MORE AND MORE OFTEN.



NOW THAT WE ARE LEARNING SO MANY COOL WAYS TO RECOVER WATER, WE MUST NOT FORGET THAT WATER FOR DRINKING IS SCARCE IN MOST REGIONS OF THE WORLD. PLEASE USE WATER RESPONSIBLY AND SAVE WATER WHENEVER POSSIBLE.



- MIX SALT AND LITTLE WATER AND POUR IT ON A FLAT SAUCER OR IN A SMALL GLASS.
- PUT THE GLASS ON A PLATE AND PUT A BOWL ON TOP.
- NOW, PLACE IT OUTSIDE IN THE SUN.

AFTER SOME TIME IN THE SUN, YOU WILL FIND SOME WATER CONDENSING ON THE BOWL AND RUNNING DOWN ON THE PLATE. ONLY SALT WILL REMAIN IN THE GLASS.