

Speed of Current: Field Worksheet



Name: _____

Class: _____

Date: _____

1. Site Name: _____ Site Location: _____

2. Pick a starting point along the bank, and mark it clearly. Measure 25 meters downstream, and mark your ending point. If you need to make the distance shorter because of the landscape, you may do so, and record it here:

Distance: _____ m

3. Tie your throw rope securely to your buoy.

4. Toss the buoy into the center of the current, upstream of the starting point. Try to avoid rocks, strainers, etc.

5. When the buoy passes the starting point, start the stopwatch.

6. When the buoy passes the ending point, stop the stopwatch. Record the time here: _____ seconds

7. Retrieve the buoy.

8. Calculate the speed of the buoy: divide the distance travelled by the time it took for the buoy to travel downstream: _____ m / _____ s = _____ m/s

9. Repeat twice more, and calculate the average speed: _____ m/s