Measuring Mercury Contamination of a Creek in Oak Ridge Tennessee (USA). In the past, mercury (Hg) was used for many industrial purposes. In some cases, spills and inadequate disposal have led to Hg contamination of the natural environment, especially in water bodies. The student will use data and analyse sediment and bank samples collected from a creek in Oak Ridge Tennessee in order to measure concentrations of Hg which was deposited as a result of accidental spills over have a century ago.