**Biological Treatment**

**What is biological treatment?**
This is a process that uses a special mixture of tiny organisms to feed on the dissolved nutrients in the wastewater. This takes place in large tanks called bioreactors. Some of the germs in the wastewater die at this stage of the process because they cannot survive the conditions in the bioreactor.

**Which dissolved nutrients are removed during this stage?**
Carbon (C) (from human faeces), nitrogen (N) (from human urine), and phosphorus (P) (from soaps).

**Why must the dissolved nutrients be removed?**
If lots of dissolved nutrients were allowed to flow into a river, they would pollute the river and reduce the oxygen levels that are vital for the life and health of a river system.

**What happens to the nutrients?**
The tiny organisms store some of the nutrients inside themselves and convert some to carbon dioxide gas (CO₂), nitrogen gas (N₂), oxygen gas (O₂) and water (H₂O).

**KEY:**
special mixture of tiny organisms (these organisms eat the dissolved nutrients)

**Water Wise**

**RAND WATER**