

Name: _____

Date: _____

Exploring Your Backyard Using the Toxic Release Inventory (TRI): Part 1

Directions:

1. Go to <https://www.epa.gov/triexplorer/>.
2. Select the **Fact Sheet** search option from the set of horizontal tabs.
3. Choose your state from the map or from the list of options under the **Topic of Interest** menu.
4. Hit submit to generate your community factsheet. Use the information provided to fill out the chart below.

Key Words
TRI facility – an industrial facility required to report to TRI because it is in a covered industry sector and exceeds the established employee and chemical thresholds.
Production-related waste – a release of toxic chemicals from an industrial facility into the air, water, or land as a result of the production process.

State:	
Number of TRI facilities:	
Total production-related waste managed (in pounds):	
Most common on-site release method (air, water, or land):	
Your state’s national ranking based on total releases per square mile:	

Consider the following questions:

1. How does your state compare to the rest of the country? Did this surprise you?
2. Scroll to find the chart titled “Total On-site Releases by Environmental Medium.” Do releases in your state seem to be increasing or decreasing over time?
3. Look at the map displaying the location of TRI facilities in your state. Are they spread out throughout the state or clustered in one area? Why might that be?
4. What was most surprising about the information you found?

Exploring Your Backyard Using the Toxic Release Inventory (TRI): Part 2

Directions:

1. Return to the TRI Explorer main menu
<https://www.epa.gov/triexplorer/>.
2. This time, you will generate a **chemical report**. Click on the horizontal tab titled Release Reports and then select Chemical from the list of options that appear below the tabs.
3. Identify two chemicals that can be found in the zip code or county of your home or school. Fill out the chart below.



Your zip code or county name: _____

	Chemical #1	Chemical #2
Name of chemical:		
Name of facility producing this chemical:		
Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) Reporting Year:		
How much of this chemical was released in pounds/year? (total release)		
How much of this chemical was released into the air in pounds/year?		
How much of this chemical was released into the land in pounds/year?		
How much of this chemical was released into the water in pounds/year?		

Exploring Your Backyard Using the Toxic Release Inventory (TRI): Part 3

Directions:

1. Go to the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry's website ToxFAQs at <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/index.asp>.
2. Choose ONE of the chemicals from part 2 of this exercise and find it in the registry.
3. Create your own Chemical Report by answering the questions below.

Name of chemical:	
Methods of exposure for humans (inhalation, ingestion, skin contact, etc.):	
Potential health effects:	
Is the chemical known to cause cancer? Explain and be sure to distinguish between <i>suspect</i> and <i>known</i> .	
What consumer products and/or industries is this chemical frequently found in?	
What federal laws, regulations, or recommendations currently exist regarding this chemical?	

BONUS ACTIVITY: Choose a product your classroom or home that has chemicals listed in its ingredients (cleaning products are generally a good place to start). Choose one of the chemical ingredients and make another chemical report just like this one using the ToxFAQ's website.