Can Water Go Bad?

Focus

Many people store water for emergencies like hurricanes and power failures. This is especially true in rural areas where drinking water comes from private wells. These wells are useless unless there is power to run the pump. If you are trying to store water safely, this question is a great one!

Materials

- 2 clean (new?) buckets
- 2 clean jars with lids, two jars without lids.
- tap water, tank water

EXTENSION

If possible source some bore water, and creek or dam water, and use the following test.

Procedure

- Collect some tap water and tank water, each in a separate bucket.
- Fill two jars with tap water; put a lid on one only. Label each jar.
- Fill two jars with tank water; put a lid on one only. Label each jar.
- Leave sit outside for a week.
- Bring jars back into classroom and make observations about
    - colour
    - smell
    - any 'foreign objects'

Research

- Ways to make water safe to drink.
- Ways to store water safely.
- Facts about bottled water.
- *Related research:*
    - Unhealthy water
    - Greywater storage and use
    - Tank water health