



February 2003
Newsletter

Interesting Facts

- * A slug has 4 noses.
- * A cat uses 32 muscles to move each ear.
- * A peacock has 200 feather in it's tail.
- * The heaviest living dog is 286 pounds.
- * An owl's eye's are too big to move in their sockets so the owl must move its entire head to change the direction it is looking.
- * Camels can see in a sandstorm. This is because they have a double row of extra long eyelashes that can screen out the sand. It also has a set of membranes that act as extra eyelids.
- * An anableps (a type of fish) can see above and below the water's surface at the same time. Just like a submarine!
- * Some large species of spiders will lay up to 2,000 eggs at a time.
- * A hummingbird can fly at speeds of up to 80 kilometres per hour.

PRAXIS

The Science & Technology Hotline

Teacher's Convention

The Southeastern Alberta Teacher's Convention is fast approaching. The convention is set for February 20 and 21, 2003 at the Medicine Hat College.

Praxis will have their usual booth with information, free material and hopefully some of the Learning Kits will be on display as well. The Learning Kits have been so popular this year that they are virtually never in to show people when they inquire.

As well as having a booth, Praxis will be putting on two workshops this year. They are both designed to assist teachers with Science Fair. If you are scared of starting a project in our classroom then this workshop is for you. I hope to be able to take the fear out of the words Science Fair!

The first workshop is on Thursday, February 20 at 1:00 p.m.—2:25 p.m. in room S151. The second session will be on Friday, February 21 at 9:00 am.-10:15 a.m.. Teachers will



Don't forget to stop by the Praxis Booth or attend one of the workshops.

be able to take away useful resources and hand-outs that are classroom ready.

I hope to see you there!

Regional Science Fair

I have received a number of phone calls regarding some confusion over the Regional Science Fair.

The following information is up to date and accurate. Please refer to this when setting appropriate deadlines for your students and entries.

The Regional Science Fair is open to all students in grades 4 - 12 in the Medi-

icine Hat School District # 76, The Catholic Board of Education, and Prairie Rose Regional School Division.

Date: April 5, 2003

Registration Deadline:
March 21, 2003

Place: Medicine Hat Mall

Time: 9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

****Note:** Judging begins at 9:00 a.m. so all projects must be set up and ready to be judged by this time.

There will be cash prizes, trophies, ribbons, and a grand prize of a trip to the National Science Fair.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me @ (403) 527-5365.

Heating Up

Materials

- box of Plaster of Paris (no substitutions)
- plastic spoon
- water
- paper cup (no substitutions)

Procedure

1. Measure out 4 or 5 tablespoons of Plaster of Paris into the paper cup.
2. Hold the paper cup in your hand and feel the temperature.
3. Add 3 to 4 tablespoons of water.

4. Stir the contents of the cup.
5. Hold the cup in your hand and feel what is happening.

mixture began to harden, an exothermic reaction began to take place. Heat energy began to be given off.

Explanation

The first time you felt the cup, you probably did not feel anything. This is because the chemical reaction did not take place until you added the water. Once you added the water to the Plaster of Paris, the mixture became cool and thick. As the



Feel the temperature rise in this experiments.

Plaster of Paris is made when gypsum crystals are ground into a powder. When you add water to this fine powder, it changes back into its original crystal form and in the process, gives off heat.

Cooling Off

Materials

- tap water
- 2 Alka Seltzer tablets
- clear glass
- thermometer
- stop watch/timer
- paper
- pen/pencil

Procedure

1. Fill the glass 3/4 full of water.
2. Place the thermometer in the water and record the initial temperature.

3. Take the temperature of the water every minute for five minutes.
4. Make a chart and record your temperature readings in the chart.
5. Add the Alka Seltzer tablets to the water. (Try to place the tablets near the thermometer.)
6. Once the tablets have stopped fizzing, take the temperature.
7. Record your final temperature.

What is going on?

The final temperature of the water should have been lower (colder) than

the initial temperature you recorded.

This is because when you added the Alka Seltzer tablets to the water, an endothermic reaction took place. An endothermic reaction is a reaction that absorbs energy. When energy is absorbed, the result is a temperature change. In this case, the final temperature will be colder.



For all of your science needs, contact Praxis :
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