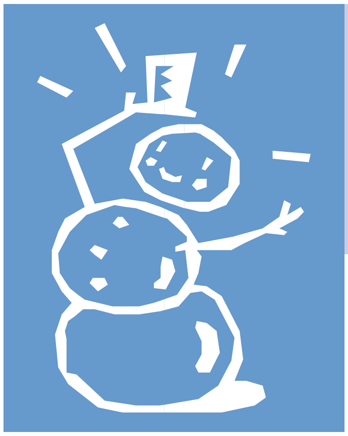

PRAXIS

February 2004
Newsletter

The Science & Technology Hotline

Interesting Science Facts

* Did you know that the fastest speed ever recorded fir a skateboarder is 55 miles per hours or approximately 89 kilometres per hour.
* Researchers are working on a smell releasing microchip that could be placed in your television. You would be able to smell a hamburger on a commercial or even a flower on a gardening show.
* When you ride a roller coaster it is **momentum** that keeps your lunch from moving in the same direction, even after the rest of your body has changed direction.
* The fastest supercomputers can literally do billions of calculations a second.
* Light travels at different speeds in different mediums. It travels faster through air than water.

Opportunities for Teachers and Students

Praxis Science Challenge 2003/2004

This is a great opportunity for your students to show the community what they are learning in class as well as what is of interest to them.

Students can write their articles on something they have been studying in class, or a current scientific issue in the news. The topics are very diverse, and allows the student to develop their own style.

All winning submissions are published in the Medicine Hat NEWS every Saturday throughout the school year.

All teachers of the winning student's essays will have an opportunity to win a science gift certificate to use as they see necessary. The possibilities are endless!

For more details, call Praxis @527-5365 or visit http://www.telusplanet.net/public/mhpraxis.

Allow your student's imagination to take off. Let them work on one of these great project.

The "Landback" Project

The contest dealing with land reclamation has been extended their deadline to April 30, 2004.

Students are encouraged to prepare a written report, video or PowerPoint presentation about land reclamation.

Regional Science Fair

The Kiwanis Regional Science Fair is fast approaching. The fair will be held at the Medicine Hat Mall on Saturday, March 27, 2004.

The Regional Science fair is open to all student in grades 4—12 in the Medicine Hat School District No. 76, Prairie Rose Regional Division, Catholic School Board as well as the local private and charter schools.

Your school should have received their registration packages by now. If you are interested in entering some students, but do not have the registration package, please contact Praxis @ 527-5365.

Deadline to register is March 12, 2004. I hope to see you there.

Dirty Money

Try to make a dirty penny clean and shiny.

Materials

glass or 250 mL beaker

measuring cup

vinegar

salt

measuring spoon

kosher or pickling (non iodized) alt

paper towels

saucer or a petri dish

Procedure

1. Measure 60 mL of vinegar.
2. Pour into the beaker.
3. Measure 5 mL of salt.
4. Pour into the beaker with the vinegar.
5. Stir well.
6. Add one penny to the beaker.
7. Allow the penny to sit in the solution for approximately 30 minutes.

Why do pennies always look so dirty?

8. Remove the penny and wash under fresh cool water.
9. Dry the penny off and observe.

Explanation

When copper pennies are exposed to the air, they form a dull or dirty looking coating on them. This coating is *copper oxide*. The solution you made of vinegar and salt was able to break apart the copper oxide coating revealing the shiny new penny.

Shocking

You have to be patient, but this will work.

Materials

small bowl or petri dish

aluminum foil

distilled water

dirty penny

Procedure

1. Use the aluminum foil to line the bowl or petri dish. The aluminum foil has to be covering the entire surface.
2. Place the dirty penny on the aluminum foil, near the centre of the bowl.
3. Pour enough water into the bowl so that the penny is covered completely.
4. Set aside. (Note: it could take up to a week for a reaction to take place.).
5. Observe what happens.

Explanation

If you look very closely, you should see that the penny made a hole in the aluminum foil. When you have two metals, such as the copper penny and the aluminum foil, they will create a small electrical current. This small electrical current is what made the hole in the aluminum foil.

For all of your science questions or needs, contact
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Alberta Science Literacy Association