

PRAXIS

JANUARY 2004

FREE Workshop Opportunity

I know that many of you shake in fear when you hear the words SCIENCE FAIR. Science Fair does not have to be a stressful time for teachers, parents and students. Join Praxis and the Medicine Hat Public Library for their Science Fair Workshop to find out more.

There will a FREE Science Fair Workshop on January 25, 2004 at the Medicine Hat Public Library in the Currie Room (downstairs). The workshop will be from 2:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m.

Please join us for an informative afternoon. A presenta-

tion will be given on how to do a science fair project, what is involved, time commitments, materials, judging and what it is like to go to the National Science Fair and win. Hopefully we will also have some past science fair participants on hand to talk about their experiences.

Students are welcome to attend if they are accompanied by an adult.

Pre-registration is required, and space is limited. Please call Erin at the Medicine Hat Public Library @502-8526 after January 6, 2004



Science Fair does not have to be stressful. Join us at the workshop to find out

Handouts and valuable information will be provided to all participants.

For further details, please contact Praxis @ 527-5365.

I hope to see you there!

Teacher's Enter to Win A Prize Worth \$6000

In 2005, Alberta will be 100 years old! During the past century, many Albertans have made great contributions to their community, the province and the world with significant innovations in science and technology

We want to get you involved in the celebrations. Here is what we need you to do: Have your class research and write a sentence or two (maximum 30 words) telling about a significant date in

the life of an innovator, past or present, from your community or your region. They could have been born, attended school or worked there. It could be their birthday or the day something important happened in their career.

For example: November 9, 1929—Richard E. Taylor is born in Medicine Hat, Alberta. He wins the Nobel Prize in 1990 for verifying the Quark Theory.

Visit www.scitechweek.gov.ab.ca for an entry form.

The winning entry will be drawn at random from all complete entries received before May 30, 2004.

The winner will receive a SMART Board interactive whiteboard and floor stand and an LCD computer/video projector. To use in their classroom.

Useful Websites

The Water Cycle

<http://www.kidzone.ws/water/>

- Evaporation, condensation, precipitation, and collection.
- This website is designed for lower elementary students and their teachers.
- There are five printable activity sheets. There is one sheet with the entire process and the other sheets contain individual processes.

Science Toys

<http://www.scitoys.com/>

- This individually-hosted Web site invites users to "make toys at home or school with common household materials, often in only a few minutes. These are not just toys, they also demonstrate fascinating scientific principles.
- Instructions for dozens of toys are available.
- The instructions are accompanied by clear and accessible explanations of the scientific concepts associated with each project.
- The Web site is organized into eight chapters: Magnetism, Electromagnetism, Electrochemistry, Radio, Thermodynamics, Aerodynamics, Light and Optics, and Biology.
- Each chapter provides recommended reading titles for further learning.

Canadian Wildlife Service

www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca

- Visit the Kid's Activities and education on the left side of the screen.
- There are great educational resources, such as quizzes, research information about wildlife, riddles, and even some exciting and fun games for students to work on.

All Stuck

Investigate how sticky different types of tape are.

Materials

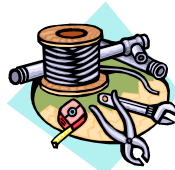
clear tape
masking tape
black electrical tape
double sided tape
packing tape
ruler
pencil
scissors
rocks
Coins
stopwatch
table or a flat surface
Science notebook

Procedure

1. Think about what you are going to investigate in this experiment. In your science notebook,

write down your hypothesis. What do you think is going to happen in this experiment?

2. In order to control the variables in the experiment, measure 10 centimetres of the clear tape. Cut out.
3. Repeat #2 for the other types of tape you are going to test.
4. Attach one end of the piece of tape to the bottom of the table. One end should be stuck to the table and the other piece should be hanging down.
5. Repeat with the other pieces of tape.
6. Place a penny on the end of each of the pieces



Gather all of your materials before starting!

of tape that are hanging off of the table.

7. Watch or time to see which piece of tape is pulled off of the table first.
8. Repeat with heavier or smaller objects.
9. Which tape was the strongest? Weakest?
10. Explain your results in your science notebook so others can also do this experiment and know what to expect. Write down any other observations you made while doing the experiment.

Explanation

What you did in this experiment was learn some of the steps of the scientific method.



The Scientific Method has five basic steps:

1. Ask a question
2. Gather information about the question
3. Form a hypothesis.
4. Test the hypothesis.
5. Tell others what you have found.

Investigation

Use the information learned about the scientific method to investigate what happens to a sponge as it dries out.

Materials

sponge
drinking glass full of water
metre stick
string
tape
pencil
chair
Science notebook

Procedure

1. In your science notebook, write down what you think will happen to

the sponge.

2. Write down your hypothesis.
3. Test your hypothesis.
4. Tie a piece of string around the very middle of the metre stick. Now tie the metre stick to the back of the chair. Allow the metre stick to hang freely.
5. Wet the sponge in the glass of water.
6. Do not squeeze out the sponge. Carefully tie the sponge to one end of the metre stick.
7. In your science notebook, write down any observations you have of the sponge at this time.
8. Allow the sponge to dry. Be patient as this may take a few hours or a few days.
9. Draw a diagram of the experiment in your notebook so that you can remember how everything was set up.
10. Write down your observations in your notebook. Try to do this every couple of hours.
11. Was your hypothesis right?

For all of your science questions or needs, contact
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