

October 2004

Newsletter



THE SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY HOTLINE

PRAXIS

Science & Technology Week

Science & technology Week in Alberta is fast approaching. October 8—18 is officially the time to celebrate science and technology in our area. Praxis will be hosting and organizing a number of events to coincide with the provincial festivities. Hopefully you will be able to attend these events.

Wednesday, October 13, 2004

Science Fair Know How
Medicine Hat Public Library
7:00 p.m.—9:00 p.m.
Pre-registration is required.
All students must be accompanied by one

adult.
FREE

Thursday, October 14, 2004

Small Science—
Discover Your World
Medicine Hat Public Library
10:30 a.m.—11:30 a.m.
Open to children ages 4—6.
Pre-registration is required.
All preschoolers must be accompanied by a caregiver.
FREE

Wing (enter on 5th street)
10:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.
All families must have one adult over the age of 18 in order to participate. Everyone welcome.
Lots of Prizes!
FREE

Visit <http://www.scitechweek.gov.ab.ca/events/index.cfm> for more details on Science & technology Week or call (403) 527-

Saturday, October 16, 2004

Family Science Olympics
Medicine Hat High School Science



Enjoy the week with one of these exiting activities.

Important Opportunities

ATA Science Council Conference

There is still time to register for the ATA Science Council Conference. This year it will be held in Banff November 12—14, 2004.

Many great scientists will be attending this year. Dr. David Suzuki will be the opening keynote speaker on Friday. This is not an opportunity you want to miss.

If you attend, I hope that you stop by the Alberta Science Literacy Association (ASLA) members booth and say hello. I

would be pleased to tell you about Praxis and how ASLA can help you in the classroom.

For more information on the conference, visit the ATA Science Council website @ <http://www.atasc.ab.ca>.

Netera and CBC 10 Essay

Challenge

THE CHALLENGE!
One of the things that attracts people to science and technology is curiosity. For example, why do bats hang upside down? Or how can computers be made smaller? Think about something you

are curious about. Describe how science and technology can help you understand it.

Choose one of the following formats:

- 1) ESSAY: 500 words or less
- 2) DIGITAL VIDEO: One minute or less

Who can enter?

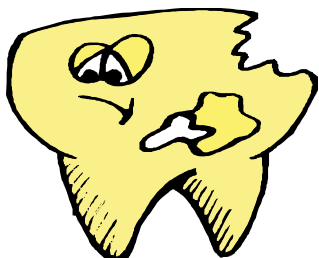
Grades 7, 8, and 9 students, anywhere in Alberta.

To enter Entries must be received no later than 4 pm on October 15, 2004.

ESSAY Submit essays to www.netera.ca/essay. Instructions are on the web site.

Tooth Decay

Did you know that the foods you eat can have an effect your teeth? Try this experiment to see the effect pop has on your teeth.



Learn what food can do to your teeth.

Materials

eggshell
Coca Cola®
clear glass or jar
plastic wrap
tweezers

Procedure

1. Place the eggshell in the glass.

2. Cover the eggshell with Coca Cola®.
3. Cover the glass with plastic wrap so that the pop will not evaporate too quickly.

4. Every couple of days, take the eggshell out and look at it. You may want to pick the eggshell up with tweezers very carefully.

similar to the acid that forms in your mouth. The eggshell is a simulation of your teeth as they are somewhat similar in their makeup.

The eggshell should have begun to disintegrate due to the acid in the Coca Cola®. This is similar to how a cavity forms in your mouth. If you do not brush your teeth, bacteria forms in your mouth. Bacteria then feeds on the tiny particles of food that are left in your mouth after you eat. Then they turn these small food particles into acid. This acid is strong enough that it eventually will eat away at the enamel on your teeth. In the end what happens is you will have one of those painful cavities.

What is going on?

The acidic nature of the Coca Cola® is

Disappearing Act

Materials

chalk
vinegar
2 clear glasses or jars
water
masking tape
marker

Procedure

1. Place a piece of masking tape on the first glass. Label it "water".

2. Place a piece of masking tape on the second glass. Label it "vinegar".
3. Place an equal sized piece of chalk in each of the glasses.
4. In the glass labeled water, cover the piece of chalk with water. Set aside.
5. In the glass labeled vinegar, pour in enough vinegar to cover the chalk. Set aside.
6. Place the two glasses beside each

other and observe.

Explanation

Chalk is similar to limestone, which many building, statues and monuments are constructed from. When acid rain hits these structures, it "eats away" at them. They literally dissolve. You can easily see the effects of acid rain on these buildings from this experiment.

In the glass marked "vinegar", you should have seen bubbling and the piece of chalk dissolving. This is because chalk is a substance called calcium carbonate. When an acid (vinegar) reacts with calcium carbonate (chalk) a gas or bubbles (carbon dioxide) are

released.

For all of your science questions or needs, contact Praxis :

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w: <http://www.telusplanet.net/public/>