



The Science & Technology Hotline

September 2004
Newsletter

Welcome Back!!

It is hard to believe the summer break is over already! Where does the time go? I hope that everyone had a chance to get out and enjoy some of the wonderful weather we had here in Southern Alberta throughout July and August.

As preparations are starting for the 2004/2005 school year, I would like to remind everyone about the wonderful services and resources Praxis has to lend teachers. Do not forget to book your Learning Kits, guest speakers etc. early. The list of materials signed out is growing already! It is never too early to book. If you know you will be doing a unit in May of 2005, be sure to

book the resources now, and they will be saved for you for that particular time and you will not have to miss out!

Coming Up

Science and Technology Week in Alberta will be October 8-17, 2004. Keep an eye open for the exciting activities Praxis will be hosting during this week. The annual Family Science Olympics is always a great opportunity to get out and challenge all of the family members!

Please visit the Innovation and Science website for an updated calendar of events for this week @

<http://www.scitechweek.gov.ab.ca/events/index.cfm> or contact Praxis @ (403)

527-5365 for more details.

Praxis will also be releasing details shortly about their new contest for students this school year. The past couple of years, the weekly **Science Smarts** column in the Medicine Hat NEWS has been very popular and we would like to continue to share our passion for science with everyone this school year as well!



Welcome Back! Get the year started off right, call Praxis for all of your Science needs!

Talk About Science!

Essay and Video Challenge

Netera Alliance and CBC Radio One 1010 present this exciting challenge.

According to a recent Environics poll, 95% of Albertans think research conducted at universities and within industry is important or very impor-

tant to their quality of life. What does research mean to you?

The challenge: Try to stimulate people to think about the role of research in our lives today, communicating in one of the following formats: 500 words or less essay or one minute or less digital video.

Grades 7, 8, and 9 students from anywhere in Alberta are encouraged to enter this contest. The deadline for entries is October 15, 2004. There are many prizes ranging from an iPod to \$500 cash.

Please call Praxis for specific details and curriculum links.

Checklist of Praxis Resources to book ASAP:

- ✓ Guest Speakers for Science, Social Studies, CALM, Career Transitions.
- ✓ Organize Field Trips.
- ✓ Curriculum Support for new classes/ science teachers.
- ✓ Science Fair information.
- ✓ Book Science Fair Workshops for teachers or parent councils.
- ✓ Principals: invite Praxis speak to the teachers at a staff meeting so they will know what they can utilize in their classroom.
- ✓ Hands on Learning Kits:
- ✓ Astronomy/Sky Science
- ✓ Building Things I
- ✓ Building Things II
- ✓ Boats and Buoyancy
- ✓ Digging For Dinosaurs
- ✓ Electricity I
- ✓ Electricity II
- ✓ Evidence and Investigation
- ✓ Insects and Creepy Crawlies
- ✓ Magnetism
- ✓ Rocks and Minerals
- ✓ Weather
- ✓ Wetlands Discovery

Eraser Power

Materials

- 3 different kinds of erasers
- 4 pieces of paper
- pencil
- slice of rye bread

Procedure

1. Label the papers #1, #2, #3, #4 at the top.
2. Label the erasers #1, #2, #3.
3. Take the paper labeled #1 and rub the pencil on it; make it good and black.
4. Try to erase the black mark on the paper with the eraser you labeled #1.
5. Set aside.

6. Repeat with papers labeled #2 and the erasers labeled #2
7. Repeat with the paper and eraser labeled #3.

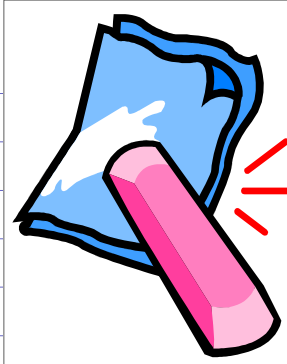
8. With the fourth piece of paper, make another dark black mark.

9. Tear off a small piece the rye bread.

10. Try to erase the mark on paper #4 with the small piece of bread.

11. What happens?
12. Which eraser worked the best?

Explanation



How well does your eraser work? Put it to the test!

The eraser that should have worked the best is the bread. Rye bread is very sticky. The sticky substance in the bread is called gluten. The gluten sticks to the paper very well and allows you to erase the pencil markings. Try different kinds of bread to see if they work as well.

Maybe we should all have rye bread erasers!

Separating Colour

Materials

- coffee filter
- water
- distilled water
- tape
- pencil
- black marker (must be water soluble)
- other coloured markers (water soluble)
- scissors
- plastic/clear cup

x 2 cm wide).

2. Lay the pencil on a flat surface. Tape the strip of paper you just cut out, to the pencil.

3. Take the black marker and draw a large dark circle on the bottom of the filter paper (away from the pencil), but not at the very bottom of the strip.

4. Fill the glass approximately 1/4 full of distilled water.

5. Pick up the pencil and lay it on the top of the glass. It should balance there. The filter paper should just touch the surface of the water. You do not want it in the water, if it is, dump some of the water out and try again.

6. Watch what happens.
7. Allow it to dry and observe.
8. Repeat with a different colour marker.

Explanation

The water was absorbed up the paper and it pulled the ink upwards. As it pulled the ink up, you should have been able to see many other colours. This is because black ink is really made up of many different colours. Some of the colours that may have filtered up your piece of paper include red, and yellow.

Look closely to see what colours made up your black ink.

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