



The Science & Technology Hotline

Did you know...

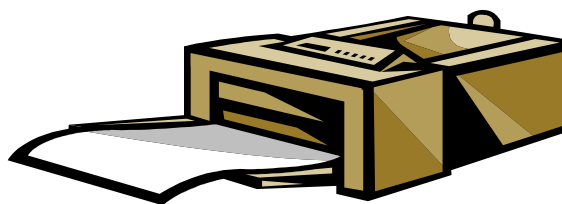
- An elephant can consume 500 pounds (226 kilograms) of hay and 60 gallons (227 litres) of a water in ONE day.
- There are seven bones in the neck of a giraffe, the same number humans have.
- Bees have 5 eyes.
- A group of kangaroos is called a mob.
- Most elephants weigh less than the tongue of a blue whale.
- Relative to size, the tongue is the strongest muscle in the human body.
- The average cough leaves your mouth at 60 miles or 24 kilometers per hour—cover up!
- The study of ants is called Myrmecology.
- The Antarctica is the only continent without reptiles or snakes.
- There are more living organisms on your skin than there are humans in the world.

Important Information

2005 Summer Program for Environmental and outdoor Educators on Southern Vancouver Island

How can we evoke in our students and children love and care for the natural world of which we are a part? How can we conserve curiosity and wonder and a deep appreciation for the world around us? This program provides an understanding of the biological basis of love, care and vision in humans, and in relationship to the biosphere.

This is an eight day program for educators. You can either reside at the facility in Sooke, British Columbia, or commute to the centre to participate in the activities. There are



Caption describing picture or graphic.

some partial scholarships available for educators. For more information, please contact Praxis @ mhpraxis@telusplanet.net or (403) 527-5365.

Kiwanis Regional Science Fair

It is that time of the year again! The Kiwanis Regional Science Fair will be held at the Medicine Hat Mall on Saturday, March 19, 2005 with deadline for

registration March 4, 2005.

Take a few minutes during the day to stop by the Mall and tour the students exhibits. These are all eager and bright future scientists.

If you have not received your registration form or require more information on the Fair, please contact Praxis.

New Learning Kit Released

A new addition has been made to the Learning Kit titles. Available to use now is the Light and Shadows Kit. This hands on Learning Kit is designed to fit the curriculum for Grade 4, Topic D. I am sure that many of you will find it very useful in your classroom. Do not forget about the other great Learning Kits:

- Astronomy/Sky Science
- Building Things/Levers and Gears

- Building Things (Grade 1)
- Boats and Buoyancy
- Digging For Dinosaurs
- Electricity
- Evidence and Investigation
- Insects and Creepy Crawlies
- Magnetism
- Rocks and Minerals
- Weather

- Wetlands Discovery
- Thanksgiving
- Halloween
- Christmas
- Easter

If there is a topic you require and it is not listed, do not hesitate Praxis @(403) 527-5365 or mhpraxis@telusplanet.net to discuss your classroom needs. We are eager to help you in any way we can!

Egg Power

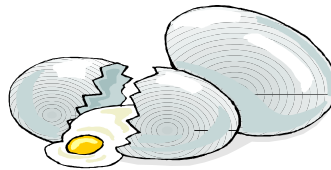
Eggs have incredible strength. Place an egg in the palm of your hand and try to break it. It is impossible. When you wrap your fingers evenly around the shell, you are exerting pressure evenly on the shell.

The staff at the Ontario Science Centre proved that a single egg could support a 90 kilogram (200 pound) person. See if you can beat this record.

Materials

scissors
2 eggs
masking tape
books

Instructions



How strong is your egg?

1. Take one egg.
2. Place a piece of masking tape around the middle of the egg.
3. Carefully poke the tip of your scissors into the eggshell through the tape.
4. Gently slide your scissors into the egg and cut all of the way around the egg.
5. Discard the inside of the egg. You will only need the empty shells.
6. You should have two similar sized "egg domes".
7. Repeat with the other egg.
8. Put the eggshells on the table, open end down, in a rectangle that is just a bit smaller than one of your books.
9. Lay one book on top of the eggshells.
10. Do any of them crack?

11. Keep adding books until you hear that a w f u l - - - - - CRRACKKK!
12. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU WASH YOUR HANDS WITH SOAPY WATER ONCE YOU ARE FINISHED.

How is this possible?

Each half of the eggshell is a miniature dome. Domes are one of the strongest structures. Why? Weight on the top of the dome is carried down along the curved walls to the wide base. No single point on the dome supports the whole weight of the object on top of it. That is why domes are often used for big buildings that cannot have pillar supports, such as hockey rinks and are-

The Naked Egg

Did you know that you can tell a hard boiled egg from a raw egg just by spinning it? Spin a raw egg on a flat surface and try to stop it with your finger. It will stop briefly and then will begin to spin again. A cooked egg will stop and cannot get going once again.

Materials

one egg
clear glass
vinegar

Procedure

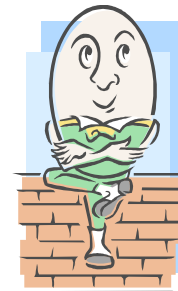
1. Gently place the egg in the clear glass.
2. Cover the egg with vinegar.
3. Observe.
4. What is happening?
5. Allow the egg to sit overnight.
6. The next day, remove the egg from the vine-

gar and run it under cold water. Gently rub the shell. It should have disappeared. If not, return the egg to the vinegar for another day and repeat.

What is going on?

Bubbles will begin to form on the egg shell. You may have to look closely to begin with, as they can be quite small when they are just starting. Over time, the bubbles will increase. This is

because there is a chemical reaction going on. The vinegar is acetic acid, which literally dissolves away the eggshell which is made of calcium carbonate.



What do you do with a naked egg?

Once the shell is gone, you still have an intact egg because the vinegar was unable to eat through the membrane of the egg.

For all of your science questions or needs, contact
Praxis @:
p/f: (403) 527-5365
e: mhpraxis@telusplanet.net
w: <http://www.telusplanet.net/public/mhpraxis>