

Praxis the Science and Technology Hotline

Praxis Newsletter

Upcoming Events

Space Facts:

- Astronauts get two or three inches taller in space
- Astronaut Neil Armstrong first stepped on the moon with his left foot
- If you could find an ocean big enough Saturn would float in it
- If every star in the Milky way was a grain of salt they would fill an Olympic sized swimming pool
- The sun contains almost 1000 times more matter than all the planets put together
- Earth is 4.56 Billion years old, the same age as the sun and moon
- Earth spins at 1000mph but travels through space at 67000mph
- In 1719 Mars was closer to earth than it was in 2003
- Venus is the only planet that rotates west-to-east

Teacher's Convention

The South Eastern Alberta Teachers' Convention will be taking place February 21 and 22, this year, at the Medicine Hat College. Praxis will once again have a booth set up. Please stop by to get information on our learning kits and guest speakers.



Praxis will be giving a

presentation on Friday from 9 until 10:15 entitled "Science Fair How to" and while a lot of schools will already have had their in School Science Fairs already this year, you can still get lots of helpful hints for next year.

Regional Science Fair

The 33rd Annual Kiwanis Regional Science Fair will be held at the Medicine Hat College on Saturday March 1st. It is open to all students in grades 4—12.

Registration deadline is Thursday February 14th.

There will be hands on activities for people to try out and fun demonstrations through out the day of the fair too, so come and check it out.

Judging will start at 9 a.m. and the awards will be handed out at 3:30 in room S159.



WE NEED YOUR HELP

Put your thinking caps on.

Praxis is looking at expanding our resources and kits, but we need some help. We need input from you the teachers and principals who know what you

could use. Call or email us and let us know what is on your wish list. If you could have one thing in your classroom or school to use and help out with your Science Curriculum what would it be? We may be able to

help out. Think big!

The first 10 people to call Erin or Darcee @ 527-5365 or email praxis@praxismh.ca with suggestions will receive a prize from us.

For all of your science needs contact Praxis

Phone: (403) 527-5365
 Fax: (403) 528-6570
 E-mail: praxis@praxismh.ca
 Website: www.praxismh.ca

Don't forget you can always get a copy of our newsletter off of our website.

Lemons to the Rescue

Materials:

- Lemon
- Apple
- Knife

Procedure:

1. Cut the apple into quarters
2. Squeeze lemon juice all over two of the pieces
3. Let all the pieces sit out for a few hours.
4. Check the apples pieces.

What do you notice?

Explanation:

The apple that didn't have the lemon juice on it should have turned brown, and the other pieces shouldn't have turned color (or at least not as much). But why?

Well when you cut the apple you exposed the inside of it to the air and there are certain chemicals in the apple that react to the air by destroying cells, and these destroyed cells turn brown. The Lemon juices contains Vitamin C, other wise known as ascorbic acid. The Vitamin C slows down the reaction between the chemicals in the fruit and the oxygen in the air. This saves the color and taste of the apple .

Shocking Lemon

Materials:

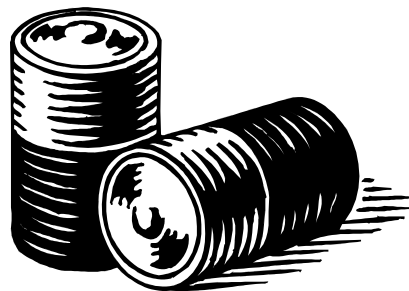
- Lemon juice
- 9 small squares of paper towel (about 3cm x 3cm)
- 5 pennies (or other copper coins)
- 5 dimes (or other coins that are **not** copper)
- Bowl

Procedure:

1. Soak the paper towel in the lemon juice
2. Put a penny down and then lay a piece of the wet paper towel over it, then put a dime, on top of the paper towel and then another piece of paper towel.
3. Continue to make a stack in this order, penny, paper towel, dime, paper towel, penny, etc.
4. Moisten a finger tip on each hand and then pick up the pile and hold it between your two fingertips. What do you feel?

Explanation:

You should have gotten a small shock or tingle sensation in your fingers. This is because you have made a wet cell, a precursor to a battery that you can buy in the store. The lemon juice on the paper towel, which is an acid, conducts the electricity that is created by the separated metals of the coins. This is why you needed one type of coin made of copper and one type that was made of something else.



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