



▶ April 2008

Newsletter

New Materials Just In!!

A couple of months ago we mentioned that Praxis was looking to expand our learning kits and resources. Well we have ordered in a lot of new materials and they are starting to arrive.

Praxis now has:

Seed Germination Model as part of our new Plant kit. Shows the stages of both monocotyledon and dicotyledon germination. Comes with activities and handouts to photocopy for your students

Cell Models, 3D models of both a plant cell and an animal cell. Comes with activity sheets and handouts.

Chicken Embryo Micro slides micro slides of the different stages of fetal development



Lots of new stuff to borrow!

Egg Incubator Holds up to 18 eggs and has a self turner in it.

DNA Model Flexible 3D color coded model. Great to show what a strand of DNA looks

like and how it can be manipulated

Fetal Pig Model Life-size fetal pig model to show what the organs of a pig should look like during a dissection. Handouts and posters to help students with their dissection.

You can check out pictures of the new materials soon on the Praxis website www.praxismh.ca

To borrow any of the new (or "old") materials or kits call or email us!

National Science Fair News

Congratulations to the following students selected to represent Medicine Hat at the Canada Wide Science Fair in Ottawa May 10–18.

- **Coralie Sheane** Grade 10 from Crescent Heights High School with her project "Ant Acids"
- **Alyssa Hickey** Grade 8 from CAPE with her project "Do You See What I See?"
- **Rachel Brown & Katie Van Der Sloot** Grade 8 from St. Mary's with their project "Plastics—Safe or Not?"

We will have results from the Canada Wide Science Fair in our June Newsletter.

GOOD LUCK LADIES!!!!

Scholarship Opportunity

Announcing the Alberta Women's Science Network Scholarship for 2008. Three scholarships of \$3000 each will be awarded – one for each Educational category – University, College and Technical Institute to a female student entering at least a second year of a program in science or engineering. For detailed information please see the following website <http://www.awsn.com/news/awards.html>. Deadline for applications is April 30th.

Medicine Hat College Summer Camps

Medicine Hat College is looking for enthusiastic people to be instructors for their science summer camps this July and August.

The camps that still need instructors are: DinoMites, A Bugs Life, Camp CSI,

ScienceTWISTS, Spa Science (Girls Only), and Blast Off!

Camps run for one week at a time for a half day each day a couple of times through out the summer.

It is a fun way to spend your summer with flexible

scheduling and no marking or complex lesson plans are required.

For more information contact Praxis or Suzanne Radchenko at MHC at (403) 529-3848 or sradchenko@mhc.ab.ca

Moon Craters

Materials:

- Flour
- Bowl
- Newspaper to spread on the ground (or you can go outside)
- Marbles, raisins, chocolates, other small things to drop

Procedure:

1. Put your bowl on the ground (make sure you put newspaper under it if

you are going to do this inside).

2. Put flour in the bowl and make it as level as you can
3. Drop your objects one at a time into the flour and see what happens
4. Try dropping your objects from different heights. Try dropping them with different amounts of force.
5. You can carefully remove each object after you drop it.

Explanation

When the solar system was forming there was lots of debris flying around hitting the planets and moons, creating big craters in their surfaces. All of the objects you drop represent some of the debris flying around and the flour represents the planets and moons. Some will make bigger craters than others.

The moon still has all of the craters on it because it has no atmosphere, so no weather to change it's landscape the way Earth does.

Weighty Planets

Materials:

- 10 plastic cups
- Aluminum Foil
- Marker or pen
- 870 pennies or beans or something else small that you can get lots of

Procedure

1. Label each cup with the name of a planet from the chart
2. Place the required number of pennies or whatever you are using into the cup
3. Cover each cup with foil
4. Use the Earth cup as your reference

and lift up each cup to see the difference, between it and the Earth cup.

Explanation:

As all the planets in our solar system are all different sizes and have different densities our weight would vary from one planet to the next. The cup labeled Earth represents what something would weigh here on Earth and each other cup represents how much the Earth cup would weigh on the other planets.

How much does everything weigh on other planets?

Reference Chart

Earth	100
Mercury	38
Venus	90
Earth's Moon	17
Mars	38
Jupiter	264
Saturn	114
Uranus	89
Neptune	114
Pluto	6

How about if you were on the Sun?

You would need 2736 pennies in a cup

For all of your Science needs contact Praxis
Phone: 403-527-5365
Fax: 403-528-6570
E-mail: praxis@praxismh.ca
Web: www.praxismh.ca

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

Founding Member of:

