

Praxis “Making Science Fun”

Eggsellent Easter – Egg Etching

From now until Easter our activities/experiments will focus on eggs. This first experiment will involve egg etching.

Materials:

- White or light coloured wax crayons
- Hard boiled eggs
- White vinegar
- Wide Mouth Glass or plastic jars
- Paper towel (clean-up)



Procedure: (Remember to be sure to have your parent’s permission and they have the time to watch and help you.)

- Draw on your hard boiled eggs with the crayons. Create designs, write words, or even just scribble. Be very careful not to crack the egg when you are writing on it.
- Put each egg into a separate wide mouth jar and cover it with white vinegar.
- Let the egg stand in the vinegar for two hours and then pour out the vinegar and replace it with fresh vinegar
- Let the egg stand in the fresh vinegar for another two hours, then take it out of the jar.
- Note any changes between the crayon marked surface and the unmarked surface.
- Wash the egg and remove all the wax crayon marks. White or light coloured crayons work best as you don’t have to work so hard to clean off the marks.

What's happening?

The wax from the crayon acts as a protective barrier to the vinegar. Vinegar is a weak acid and it dissolves some of the calcium carbonate of the eggshell. The wax in the crayons protects the parts of the shell that you drew on and keeps it from dissolving.

Eggstension:

If you want the “art work” on the egg to stand out you can dye the egg before washing off the wax from the crayon. You may need to go over the waxed surfaces to make sure it has a good protective barrier. The result will create a coloured background against the lighter coloured unetched surfaces. A future article will cover using natural dyes to colour your eggs. See <http://www.kidcraftsmagazine.com/> for more eggacting science eggsperiments.

This activity is based on our seasonal “Easter” Learning Kit. Our teaching kits (described on our website) are loaned out FREE to provide classroom teachers and parents of home schooled children an opportunity to explore Science in interesting ways. Please consider volunteering as one of our classroom speakers or allow your business as a field trip location.



The next major event that Praxis is involved with is the Kiwanis Regional South East Alberta Science Fair on March 24th. For more information check our Praxis website and their website at: <http://www.seab-sciencefair.com/>

Lorne Cooper, Regional Executive Director

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