

**Praxis “Making Science Fun”**

**Eggsellent Easter – Natural Egg Dyes**

Can natural materials make suitable dyes for colouring eggs?



**Materials:**

- Hard boiled white eggs
- Cooking oil
- White vinegar
- Cups or drinking glasses
- Pots for boiling
- Various foods and flowers

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

- Place an egg in each cup. Add water until the egg is covered and add one teaspoon of vinegar.
- Add the natural dye. More material will make the colours richer.
- If the item in the chart below says (boiled), then repeat the above steps but use a pot on the stove. Bring it to a boil, reduce the heat and simmer for 15 minutes.
- Results may be improved by leaving the egg in the dye in the refrigerator overnight.
- Naturally dyed eggs can be made shiny by rubbing a bit of cooking oil on them once they are dry.

**Natural Easter Egg Dyes (some work better than others)**

Color	Ingredients
Lavender	Small Quantity of Purple Grape Juice Violet Blossoms plus 2 tsp Lemon Juice Red Zinger Tea
Violet Blue	Violet Blossoms Small Quantity of Red Onions Skins (boiled) Hibiscus Tea
Blue	Canned Blueberries Red Cabbage Leaves (boiled) Purple Grape Juice
Green	Spinach Leaves (boiled)
Greenish Yellow	Yellow Delicious Apple Peels (boiled)
Yellow	Orange or Lemon Peels (boiled) Carrot Tops (boiled) Celery Seed (boiled) Ground Cumin (boiled) Ground Turmeric (boiled) Chamomile Tea Green Tea
Golden Brown	Dill Seeds
Brown	Strong Coffee Instant Coffee Black Tea
Orange	Yellow Onion Skins (boiled) Cooked Carrots Chili Powder Paprika

Pink	<p style="text-align: center;">Beets Cranberries or Cranberry Juice Raspberries Red Grape Juice Juice from Pickled Beets</p>
Red	<p style="text-align: center;">Lots of Red Onions Skins (boiled) Canned Cherries with Juice Pomegranate Juice Raspberries</p>

**What's happening?**

Vinegar is a weak acid and it dissolves some of smooth outside calcium carbonate of the egg shell making it easier for the colour to be absorbed.

**Extension:**

Of course the easiest way to get coloured eggs would be to get eggs from an Easter Eggers, Americana and Araucana hens. These are chicken breeds that lay coloured eggs. Shades of green, blue, lavender, rose and variations of these shades are possible. [http://wiki.answers.com/Q/Is there a chicken that lays colored eggs](http://wiki.answers.com/Q/Is_there_a_chicken_that_lays_colored_eggs)

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 24<sup>th</sup>. For more information check our Praxis website and their website at: <http://www.seab-sciencefair.com/>

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