

I know the excitement for one of the spookiest holidays of the year is rising! Halloween is just around the corner. This time of the year is filled with creepy, oozing disgusting things, and it is time to get ready for some more spooky science experiments! This week we will make your paper bleed...Let's get started!

***An adult must help you this week. ***

Materials

goldenrod paper (it is that orange golden colour – no substitutions)

household ammonia (available at the grocery store in the cleaning or laundry section) caution this is POISON

a few Q Tips

safety goggles

marker

two clear jars

measuring spoons

measuring cup

Procedure

1. Put on your safety goggles.
2. Place the goldenrod paper on a clean, dry, flat surface. Set aside for now.
3. Label one jar POISON ammonia solution.
4. Label the second jar water.
5. Measure one cup (250 mL) of water and pour into EACH of the marked jars.
6. Measure two tablespoons (30 mL) of ammonia and pour in the jar labelled ammonia solution. Gently stir. Careful this is POISON.
7. Take one Q Tip and dip it in the water; saturate it making it quite wet.
8. In the corner of the paper, draw a line.
9. Wait and observe what happens.

10. Take a new Q Tip and dip it in the ammonia solution, saturating it as well.
11. Draw in the middle of the paper this time.
12. Observe what happens.
13. Draw all kinds of spooky messages for Halloween!
14. Dispose very carefully of the ammonia solution.
15. When finished wash your hands well.

What is going on?

When you wrote with the water, nothing should have happened at all. The paper would just have been wet. When used the ammonia solution the paper should have turned a bright red colour just like it was bleeding. This is due to the ammonia being a base which causes the dye in the goldenrod paper to change colour (red).

Mark your calendars to attend the Family Science Olympics next week. This FREE event will be on Saturday, October 26 in the Richard E. Taylor Science Wing at Medicine Hat High School from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.. There will be 10 fun hands on science experiments for ALL ages to try out! This year our grand prize is an iPod mini so do not miss out.

Patty Rooks, Senior Scientific Consultant PRAXIS, "Making Science Fun". Contact Praxis at praxis@praxismh.ca, www.praxismh.ca, Tweet or follow us @PraxisMedHat, or friend us on Facebook. Address: c/o 200 7th Street S.W., Medicine Hat, AB, T1A 4K1 Phone: 403-527-5365, Fax: 403-527-6570.