

An Eggs-ellent Experiment!

Have you ever seen an egg and wondered what happens inside? Birds, reptiles and amphibians aren't born the same way other animals are; they hatch from an egg. Here are some experiments you can do at home to learn a little more about how an egg works, and even a little about your own body too!

Materials

- 3 Raw eggs
- Vinegar
- 12" String
- Corn syrup or honey
- 3 Wide mouth glasses or jars
- Water

Instructions

1. Carefully soak each egg in vinegar for 2 or 3 days.
2. Gently rinse of each egg.
3. Wrap the string gently around the middle of the egg and cut the string. Measure the length of the string using a ruler.
4. Make observations about the eggs: How do the eggs feel? What do they look like? Do you think anything is different? What do you think happened? Do you think the eggs changed inside? Try opening one up and see!
5. Gently place each of your eggs in a glass or jar filling one with clear corn syrup, and the other with water, so that the eggs are completely covered (don't be surprised if an egg floats).
6. Let the eggs sit for 3 days. Check them each day to see if anything is happening. Predict what you think will happen.
7. After three days, remove the eggs and gently rinse off the corn syrup under a little water.
8. Measure the eggs again with the string. How does this compare to the first measurement?
9. What do you think happened? Do the eggs look or feel any differently? Do you think anything happened to the corn syrup? What do you think is different? Try cutting them open and see how they look and feel.

Why/how does this work?

The shell of an egg is there to protect what is inside, and is a lot like our bones. Our bones and the egg shell both have calcium in them to make them strong. Vinegar removes the calcium from the eggs, so that you can see inside. What is left is called the egg's outside "membrane".