

Growing Mould



YOU WILL NEED:

- Water
- Some tape
- Left over foods (like bread, orange, lemon, apple, grapes, red pepper, courgette, cauliflower, cheese or biscuits)
- A clear container with a lid (a big glass jar or a big clear plastic container works best)
- A notebook or some paper to keep notes of your findings each day.

DO NOT USE anything with meat or fish in it. It will smell very bad after a few days!!!

WHAT TO DO:

1. Place the jar on its side.
2. Cut about 3 to 5 different pieces of food into small chunks about 1.5cm (1 inch.).
3. Dip all the different pieces of food into the water.
4. Spread the foods out in the jar so that they are not in a pile.
5. Place the lid on the jar and tape around the outside of the lid to seal it.
6. Place the jar where it will not get knocked over or thrown away.
7. Put a label with the date on the jar.
8. Keep a check on the foods for two weeks and write some notes on what you observe.
9. Bring your notes / photographs into school after half term and share them with your class.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

You probably will not notice any change in the food for the first few days. However, you should start to see some green, white or blue fuzzy/furry stuff growing there after.

Still keeping a check; after a few more days some of the food may start to rot and look horrible. Keep an eye on it for the next two weeks and you will see how the mould spreads and how the food rots.

NOTE: After the two weeks, DO NOT open the lid. Throw the jar and its contents in the bin and DO NOT reuse the jar.

Moulds do not grow from seeds. Moulds grow from tiny spores that float in the air. Some of these spores fall onto a piece of damp food and then grow into mould. These spores are called micro organisms.

MAKE IT AN EXPERIMENT

The project above is a DEMONSTRATION. To make it a true experiment, you can try to answer this question:

1. Does the temperature where the container or jar is left, affect the speed that the foods rot?
2. Do foods that have not been dipped in water rot at the same speed?