

MARCH

science experiments



FOUR different experiments plus recording sheet



Turning Pennies Green

Just in time for St. Patrick's Day, students will LOVE turning pennies green!

SUPPLIES

- Salt
- Vinegar
- Pennies
- Paper towels
- Tray



SETTING UP

Layer paper towels on the bottom tray. Dampen the paper towel with vinegar.

DOING THE EXPERIMENT

Ask students why they think pennies corrode. Why is the Statue of Liberty green? Tell them about oxidation.

Have them place the pennies on the paper towels and sprinkle with salt.



Throughout the day, examine them for signs of corrosion. By the end of the day, they will be almost completely green.



QUESTIONS TO ASK

- Why does copper corrode?
- What makes the copper turn green?
- How long does it take for pennies to turn green?

THE SCIENCE BEHIND IT

Pennies turn green thanks to a process known as oxidation. Oxidation happens on any unprotected metal, like iron, steel, or copper. Oxidation is a chemical reaction between the metal, oxygen, water, and carbon dioxide. Pennies naturally oxidize over time, but adding the vinegar and salt increases the rate of oxidation, so pennies that would take months to turn green turn green in just a few days.

Name: _____

The Colors of a Penny

If we sprinkle salt on the penny, predict this will happen:

Draw a picture of your penny

Before

After

Explain what happened to the penny after you sprinkled salt on it:

Name: _____

The Colors of a Penny

If we sprinkle salt on the penny, I predict this will happen:

Show what happened to the penny after you sprinkled salt on it:

step-by-step directions & differentiated recording sheet

