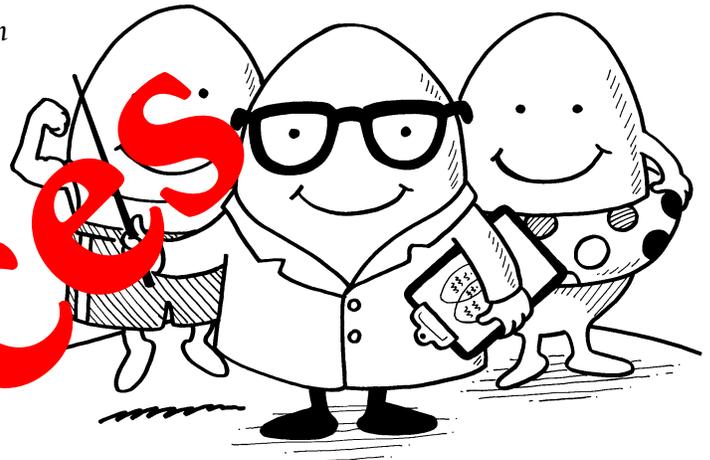


EGG-CELLENT SCIENCE

Open your child's eyes to the exciting world of science with a few simple activities—all involving ordinary eggs. He'll discover that an egg is actually pretty extraordinary, from its surface to its shape.

Note: Always wash your hands after handling raw eggs.



BOUNCING EGG

What happens if you accidentally drop an egg? It cracks! With this idea, your youngster will make an egg bounce instead.

You'll need: raw egg, glass or jar, white vinegar

Here's how: Ask your child to gently place the egg into the glass or jar and cover it with vinegar. What does he observe? (Little bubbles form on the egg.) After two days, help him carefully pour out the vinegar. Now hold the egg a couple of inches above a plate on the counter and drop it.

What happens? When your youngster drops the egg a short distance, it bounces! (If he holds it too high, the rubbery membrane will break, and the yolk and white will spill out.)

Why? A chemical reaction between the acid in the vinegar and the calcium carbonate in the eggshell caused the shell to dissolve. The bubbles were a visible sign of the reaction taking place. Because the membrane beneath the shell is rubbery, the egg bounces when dropped.

EGGSHELLS VS. SKIN

Does your youngster know how his skin resembles an eggshell? Encourage him to draw an "egg" Venn diagram to compare the two surfaces: Instead of drawing two overlapping circles, he can draw overlapping egg shapes. Have him write "human skin" in one egg, "Eggshell" in the other, and "Both" in the shared space.

Now suggest that your child use his senses to examine and compare eggshell and his skin. He could look closely at the surfaces under a magnifying glass, touch a shell and his skin, and even smell them. He can write what he observes.

For example, your youngster might notice that his skin is soft and an eggshell is hard. Or he may observe tiny holes (pores) on his skin. **Fun fact:** An eggshell has as many as 17,000 pores.



FLOATING EGGS

Does an egg sink or float? That depends on the density of the water your child puts it in.

You'll need: two clear glasses, tablespoon, salt, two raw eggs

Here's how: Have your youngster fill each glass half full with water. She should measure 6 tbsp. of salt into one glass and stir until dissolved. Help her gently place an egg in each glass.

What happens? The egg in plain water sinks, while the egg in salt water floats.

Why? An egg is denser than water (its molecules are packed together more tightly), so it sinks. But salt water is denser than plain water—and it's also denser than an egg, so the egg floats.

Tip: Need an easy way to tell if an egg is fresh? Your child can put it in plain water—if it floats, don't use it. An older egg has more air inside, making it less dense than water.