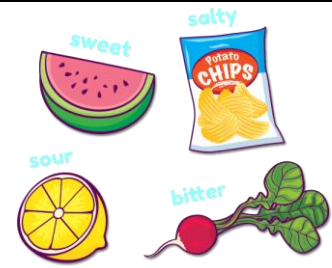


Science Experiments: Biology

Test Your Taste Buds



Materials:

- four cups of water
- clean ice cream sticks
- lemon juice
- salt
- sugar
- a taste test subject! (You may want to test this on someone who won't know what solutions they are tasting.)

Experiment:

1. Dissolve sugar into one cup, salt into another cup and pour lemon juice into a third cup.
2. Leave the fourth cup as a 'control', i.e. something you can compare against.
3. Mix a wooden ice-cream stick through the sugar solution and place it on the tip of your tongue. Record the taste i.e. salty, bitter, sweet, no taste.
4. Wash your mouth out with water.
5. Repeat steps 3 and 4 for the back, sides and then the middle of your tongue. Remembering to rinse your mouth with water after each time.
6. *Were there areas of the tongue that didn't strongly sense the taste?*
7. Repeat the steps 3, 4 and 5 for the salty then the lemon juice solutions.

What is happening?

The tongue can have around 10 000 taste buds. Different areas of the tongue are sensitive to different flavours.

