



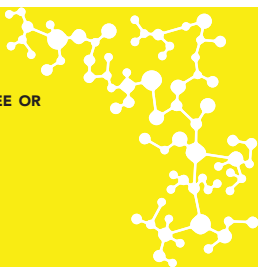
MOLD MADNESS

MATERIALS:

- **THREE CUPS CONTAINING A LITTLE COFFEE OR LEFTOVER FOOD**
- **A MAGNIFYING GLASS**

PROCEDURE:

1. Put one cup with coffee or leftover food on a sunny windowsill, one in the refrigerator and one in a dark cupboard.
2. Look inside the cups every day for several days, and write down what you see. Your magnifying glass will help. (It may take a few days for the mold to start growing.)
3. Does *temperature* affect the mold's growth? See if the cup on the windowsill grows mold more slowly, more quickly or at the same rate as the one in the refrigerator.
4. Does *light* affect the growth of the mold? Does the cup on the windowsill grow mold at the same rate as the one in the dark cupboard?
5. Look around your home for other molds. Inspect: pickles in a jar, cottage cheese, bread, paint on the walls, oranges, house plants and tiles around a bathtub or shower.
6. Are the molds all of the same color, or are they different?








WHAT THIS MEANS:

We can find molds in all sorts of unexpected places. Unlike green plants, they can't make their own food from sunlight. Instead, they live directly off of what they are growing on. Molds can be a nuisance when they settle on our food or possessions. But molds are also useful. The green spots on old oranges are penicillin mold. This is what the medicine is made from.

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