

CALIFORNIA STATE SCIENCE FAIR 2007 PROJECT SUMMARY

Name(s)

Gianna G. Spinosa

Project Number

J1840

Project Title

Crazy Candles!

Abstract

Objectives/Goals

The objective of my project was to determine which type of candle out of beeswax, paraffin, and soy would burn for the longest amount of time and produce the most light.

Methods/Materials

I lit each candle, 2 beeswax, 2 paraffin, and 2 soy, one at a time, placed it in a plastic experiment tube, and started the timer. I then took light measurements with a light meter at 2, 5, and 30 minute intervals. Burn time and brightness were recorded.

Results

The soy candles burned for the longest amount of time, followed by paraffin and then beeswax. The beeswax candles burned the brightest, followed by paraffin and then soy.

Conclusions/Discussion

I originally thought that the paraffin candles would burn the brightest, and the soy candles would burn for the longest amount of time. However, this was incorrect. I learned that the candles that burned the brightest (beeswax) also burned the fastest, and the candles that burned the longest (soy) were also the least bright. Therefore, either of these candles would be good to have in an emergency.

Summary Statement

My project tested beeswax, paraffin, and soy candles to determine which one would burn for the longest amount of time and produce the most light.

Help Received

My dad helped me light the candles, and my mom helped me arrange the backboard.