

CALIFORNIA STATE SCIENCE FAIR 2014 PROJECT SUMMARY

Name(s)

Nayeli Martinez

Project Number

S1818

Project Title

Exposed: A Study of the Effectiveness of Waterproof Sunscreen

Abstract

Objectives/Goals

The objective of my project was to determine the effectiveness of waterproof sunscreen.

Methods/Materials

My materials included sunscreens (Banana Boat SPF 100, Block Up! 70, Sensitive Skin SPF 50), 2 ring stands with thermometer clamp, saran wrap, Vernier LabQuest2, two UVB probes. outdoor access, water, electronic balance, Tupperware, and two stirring rods.

My method was to place one sample of sunscreen underwater for 15 or 25 minutes while a different sample of the same sunscreen was not in water for that same time. After the time was up I'd place the sunscreen on the ring stand and measure the UVB penetrating through the sunscreen for both samples.

Results

The results I obtained clearly showed that the longer the sunscreen was soaked in water, the less effective it became. By using the UVB probes, I was able to determine that the samples placed in water let in more UVB than the sunscreen samples not placed in water. The samples of sunscreens placed in water for 25 minutes all rejected the null hypothesis by 99%.

Conclusions/Discussion

My data does support my hypothesis because I hypothesized that the sunscreens would lose effectiveness after being under water. The data I collected clearly shows that while under water, the sunscreen had lost effectiveness. Due to these results, sunscreen should be applied frequently if there will be time spent in water.

Summary Statement

To determine whether waterproof sunscreen is effective after being in water.

Help Received

Adviser guided me through the process of a science project.