

CALIFORNIA STATE SCIENCE FAIR 2006 PROJECT SUMMARY

Name(s)

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Project Number

J0526

Project Title

What Is the Effect of pH Level on the Darkness of Dyed Fabric?

Abstract

Objectives/Goals

The purpose of my experiment is to find out how the pH level affects the color of the dyed fabric.

Methods/Materials

I varied the pH level of each solution by adding different amounts of either ammonia or vinegar to water. Once I verified the pH level by using litmus paper, I added a fixed amount of dye powder to the solution and stirred until it was dissolved. I did this procedure for three different trials, and each trial tested nine different levels from pH 4 to pH 12. Then I soaked each piece of cotton fabric in a different cup for one hour. Afterwards, I rinsed each piece with water until it didn#t bleed anymore and then let it soak for another hour. The rinsed pieces then went into the washing machine with a mild detergent. After they were all washed, I took them out and let them air-dry overnight.

Results

The final result was that the dyed fabric gradually got darker until pH 9, 10 and 11 and became lighter at pH 12.

Conclusions/Discussion

In conclusion, my results were slightly different than my hypothesis. I predicted that the color would be darker if there was more ammonia (or more alkaline) mixed with the dye powder. However, my results were that pH levels 9 through 11 had the darkest color.

Summary Statement

The purpose of my experiment is to find out how the pH level affects the color of the dyed fabric.

Help Received

Mr. Gary Tanaka, supplied me with litmus paper & was my project advisor. My main technical resources were Dr. Peter Hauser, North Carolina State U. & Dr. Paula Burch, Baylor College of Medicine, Houston TX.