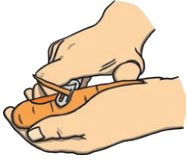


Awe and Wonder

Ancient Aztec Poo Investigation

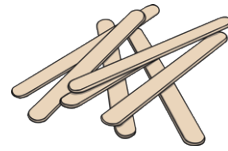
You will need:



vegetable
skins



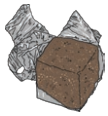
brown
poster paint



wooden lolly
sticks



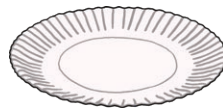
mixture of seeds



beef stock cubes



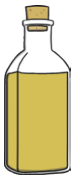
1 tablespoon



paper plates



1 cup of salt



1 tablespoon of
vegetable oil



warm water



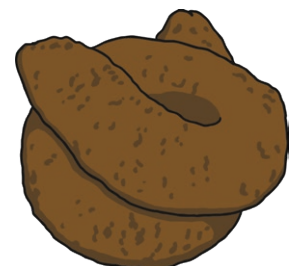
large mixing bowl



2 cups of flour

Method:

1. Put the flour, salt and vegetable oil into a large bowl and carefully mix them all together.
2. In another bowl, mix together the warm water and the beef stock cube. It should make a thick paste.
3. Put the thick brown paste into the bowl containing the flour mixture.
4. Using your hands, mix everything together. Add some more water or even some brown paint, if the mixture is too dry.
5. When it is a big brown lump, take small pieces and roll them into small sausage shapes.
6. Add some of the corn, pumpkin seeds, tomato and vegetable skins and press them into the sausage shapes. These are the bits which tell archaeologists what people ate all those years ago.
7. Ask your friends to use the lolly sticks to 'excavate' the poos and find out what the ancient Aztecs used to eat!



Poo through the Ages

For a change, add these things to your 'poos' and see if your friends can find the evidence of what people ate, through the ages.

Egyptians

The Egyptians ate caraway seeds, bread grains, date stones, melon seeds and lentils.

The Romans

The Romans ate melon seeds, olive stones, orange and lemon pips, bread grains and date stones.

Vikings

Vikings would have eaten fish bones, bread grains, peas, apple pips, cherry stones and plum stones.

Tudors

The Royal Tudors would have eaten lentils, fish bones, bread grains, apple pips and peas.



The Science

Archaeologists have analysed fossilised faeces, or ancient poo, for years. It is an important way for us to understand what people used to eat, and what their diet was like. Seed shells and stones are not able to be digested, so they pass through the gut. Through investigations, it is possible to know what farming was like, changes in food trends, and where foods were imported from.