

Mix It Up

Procedure

- 1. Collaborate** Work with a partner. Fill two clear plastic cups with water. Stir a spoonful of soil into one cup. Stir several drops of food coloring into the other cup. Cover each cup with plastic wrap. Hold it in place with a rubber band. **Safety:** Wear goggles.
- 2. Record Data** Observe the plastic wrap and the contents of each cup. Record your observations in the chart below in the row labeled *Before*.

	Water and Soil	Water and Food Coloring
Before		
After		

- 3. Experiment** Place the cups near a window so that they are in direct sunlight. Wait one day and observe the plastic wrap and cups again.
- 4. Compare** In your chart, record your observations of the plastic wrap and each cup after they have been in sunlight. Compare your “Before” and “After” observations.

Conclusion

Write the answers to the questions below.

1. **Analyze Data** What did you notice about the plastic wrap at the top of each cup? What do you think is the cause?

2. **Infer** Based on your data, what can you infer about the effect sunlight had on the water in the cups? Did the material you mixed with the water affect the results? Explain.

Investigate More!

Design an Experiment Plan and carry out a similar experiment. This time, place the cups in a cool, dark place. Did the results change? Record and explain any differences you observed.