Truth in Packaging

For this experiment, you will need the following:

- a gram or ounce scale
- packaged dry food (rice, cookies, pasta, beans, and so on)
- a bowl or plastic container

Follow these steps:

A. Weigh the bowl or plastic container. Record its weight: ________________

B. In the table above, record the name of each product and the “Label Net Weight” as indicated on the package label.

C. Carefully remove the food from the package and place it into the plastic container.

D. Weigh the plastic container of food to the smallest unit you can. Record the weight in the table in the “Weight in Bowl” column.

E. Subtract the weight of the plastic container from the weight you just recorded. Record the difference in the “Actual Net Weight” column.

F. Compare your “Actual Net Weight” with the “Label Net Weight.”

1. Explain why it is important to know the weight of the bowl.

____________________________________________________________________________________

2. Does the net weight printed on each package include the weight of the package itself? How could you find out?

____________________________________________________________________________________

3. For which products were the net weight on the label and the actual weight closest? Why do you think this is so?

____________________________________________________________________________________
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Check students’ tables.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product Name</th>
<th>Label Net Weight</th>
<th>Weight In Bowl</th>
<th>Actual Net Weight</th>
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</tbody>
</table>

Follow these steps:

A. Weigh the bowl or plastic container. Record its weight: ____________________________

B. In the table above, record the name of each product and the “Label Net Weight” as indicated on the package label.

C. Carefully remove the food from the package and place it into the plastic container.

D. Weigh the plastic container of food to the smallest unit you can. Record the weight in the table in the “Weight in Bowl” column.

E. Subtract the weight of the plastic container from the weight you just recorded. Record the difference in the “Actual Net Weight” column.

F. Compare your “Actual Net Weight” with the “Label Net Weight.”

1. Explain why it is important to know the weight of the bowl.

If the weight of the bowl is known, then you can find the exact weight of the food in the package.

2. Does the net weight printed on each package include the weight of the package itself? How could you find out?

No. Weigh the package with the contents.

3. For which products were the net weight on the label and the actual weight closest? Why do you think this is so?

Answers will vary.