Name: Class:

Year 6 Signature Work Inquiry:

Cool Water

Experimental Journal

Table of Contents

Introduction

We know that water is good for us and want to find ways to encourage each other to drink plenty of water at school without generating unnecessary plastic pollution. One way might be to try to keep the water in our bottles cool so it tastes better for longer. In Science we are going to investigate which materials might be best for keeping our drinks cool.

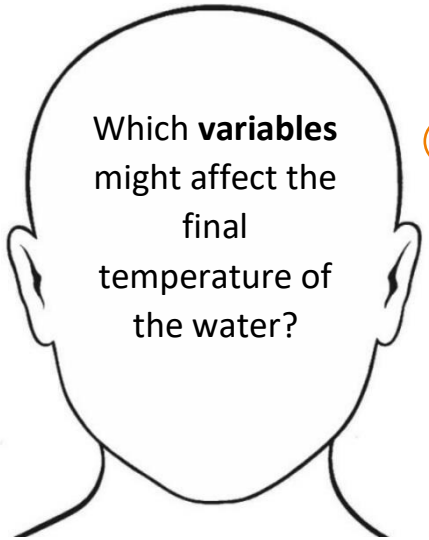
We have already discovered that the same materials that are good at keeping things cool are also good at keeping them warm. We think it will be easier to measure temperature changes for water heating up than cooling down, so that is what we plan to do in our tests.

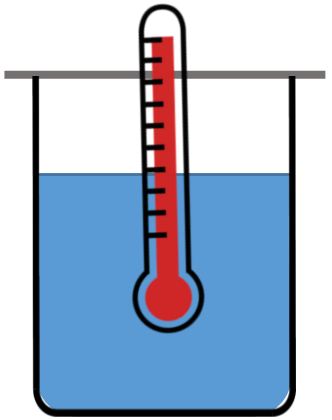
Date

A Fair Test

You are going to investigate a range of different materials to see which are the best insulators by wrapping them around a cup of hot water and measuring the temperature drop.

You need to make a FAIR comparison between the different insulators, so must think about ALL the different things that might affect the temperature of the water and decide how to control these.





Date

Pilot experiment 1

Purpose of experiment	To see what the **highest starting temperature** is that we can reasonably achieve as a class

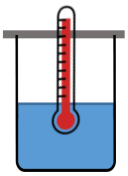
Hot water and steam will burn you. Be very careful not to spill. Do NOT hold the measuring cylinder or beaker while you pour water into them – stand them on the bench.

Method:

1. Collect a measuring cylinder, beaker, lid, thermometer, stopwatch, clamp stand and safety spectacles. Put on the safety specs!
2. Set up your apparatus so that you can lower the thermometer and lid into the measuring cylinder using the clamp stand. Slide the lid on the thermometer to around the 20°C mark.
3. *Preheat your apparatus*: Collect around 200ml of hot water in your beaker. CAREFULLY pour 100ml into the measuring cylinder and gently lower the thermometer into it. Wait for at least 30 seconds.
4. One person raise the thermometer and empty out the measuring cylinder while the other empties the beaker and CAREFULLY collects around 200ml of freshly boiled water in the beaker.
5. Carefully pour 100ml of freshly boiled water into the measuring cylinder.
6. Quickly lower the thermometer into the measuring cylinder until the lid (still at around the 20°C mark in the thermometer) touches the top of the measuring cylinder.
7. As soon as the thermometer reading stops rising, **record the temperature in the table below**.
8. **Go back to step 4 and repeat this twice.**

Results

Attempt	Starting temperature (°C)
1	
2	
3	



Conclusion:

What was the second lowest temperature you recorded (we'll assume the lowest might have been a mistake)?_____

Circle the highest temperature you think you could comfortably manage to get above every time? It must be at least 2 degrees below the temperature recorded above.

70°C 75°C 80°C 85°C 90°C 95°C

Circle the value that your **whole class** agrees you can all comfortably manage every time as a starting temperature?

70°C 75°C 80°C 85°C 90°C 95°

Date

Pilot experiment 2

Purpose of experiment	To see how the **rate** of cooling changes over time

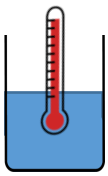
Method:

1. Set up your apparatus as before. Don't forget to wear your safety specs.
2. *Preheat the apparatus as before.*
3. One person raise the thermometer and empty out the measuring cylinder while the other empties the beaker and CAREFULLY collects around 200ml of freshly boiled water in the beaker.
4. Carefully pour 100ml of freshly boiled water into the measuring cylinder.
5. Quickly lower the thermometer into the measuring cylinder until the lid (still at around the 20°C mark in the thermometer) touches the top of the measuring cylinder.
6. **As soon as the temperature has fallen to the starting temperature your class agreed in the last experiment**, start the stopwatch and **record this first starting temperature below**.
7. Record the temperature **every minute** for 10 minutes.

Results

Time (min)	Water temperature (°C)
0	T_0 =
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	T_5 =
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	T_{10} =

You are going to plot a line graph of these results in your **Maths** lessons to help you to understand and communicate what they tell you.



Calculate the temperature **change** over the first five minutes: $T_5 - T_0$ = _____ (°C)

Calculate the temperature **change** over the second five minutes: $T_{10} - T_5$ = _____ (°C)

Conclusion:

Does the water cool the fastest over the **first** five minutes or the **second** five minutes?

_____

In what way do you think the starting **temperature** of the water affects how rapidly it cools? When the water is _____ it cools _____

If you want to do a fair test, does it matter what the starting temperature of the water is? _____

Date

Making our experiment fair

We want to test how effective different insulating materials are. To do this fairly we will need to:

Change one variable (the input or independent variable): The material we wrap the cup in

Measure one variable (the output or dependent variable): The temperature drop of the water

Keep all the other variables the same.

What are the other variables? What values will we choose?

Variable	Value
How long we let the water cool for	10 minutes
Starting temperature () (roughly)	_____°C
Volume of water	100ml
Lid or no lid?	Lid
Position of lid on thermometer	At 20°C mark
Number of layers of material	1

We will also keep the type of container the same (a 100ml plastic measuring cylinder). Are there any other variables that matter?

Date

Gathering experimental evidence: Experiment 1

Purpose of experiment	We want to find out which material keeps the water hottest for longest

Method:

1. Collect **two sets** of apparatus per group. Set up your apparatus as before.
2. Decide which materials your group will test. **Make sure at least one group in the class tests every material**. Record your materials in the table below. *Fill in the first line of the table using the results from page 5.*
3. Wrap your first material around one measuring cylinder and secure it with two rubber bands. Gently pull the material down so that you can see the 100ml mark. *Preheat this apparatus.*
4. One person raise the thermometer and empty out the measuring cylinder while the other empties the beaker and CAREFULLY collects around 200ml of freshly boiled water in the beaker.
5. Carefully pour 100ml of freshly boiled water from the beaker into the measuring cylinder.
6. Quickly lower the thermometer into the measuring cylinder until the lid (still at around the 20°C mark in the thermometer) touches the top of the measuring cylinder. Pull your insulation back up so it covers the whole cylinder.
7. As soon as the temperature has fallen **to the starting temperature your class agreed in the last experiment**, **start the stopwatch** and record this first starting temperature below.
8. After 10 minutes have passed, record the finishing temperature.
9. While you are waiting for your first experiment to finish, start a second one with a different material. Don't forget to keep an eye on that stopwatch!
10. Record your 'temperature drop' results in the class spreadsheet.

Results (you probably won't use all these rows)

Insulating material *(Independent variable)*	Starting temperature (°C) *(should be about the same every time)*	Finishing temperature (after 10 minutes) (°C)	**Temperature drop in 10 minutes (°C)** *(Dependent variable)*
No material (control) Fill in this row using your results from page 5	T_0 =	T_{10} =	

Date

Whole class results

Material *(Independent variable)*	**MEAN temperature drop in 10 minutes (°C)** *(Dependent variable)*	**MEDIAN temperature drop in 10 minutes (°C)** *(Dependent variable)*
No material (control)		
Bubble wrap		
Cotton		
Felt		
Fleece		
Foil		
Hessian		
Gauze		
Leatherette		
Vinyl		

You are going to plot a bar chart of these results in your **ICT** lessons to help you to understand and communicate what they tell you.

MEAN means “add them all up and divide by the number of bits of data”. MEDIAN means “find the middle bit of data”.

Conclusion: What do the whole class results tell us about the temperature drop of the water with different materials? How do they help us answer the question ‘which material is the best insulator’?

Do the whole class results match your group’s results in terms of which were the best and worst insulators?

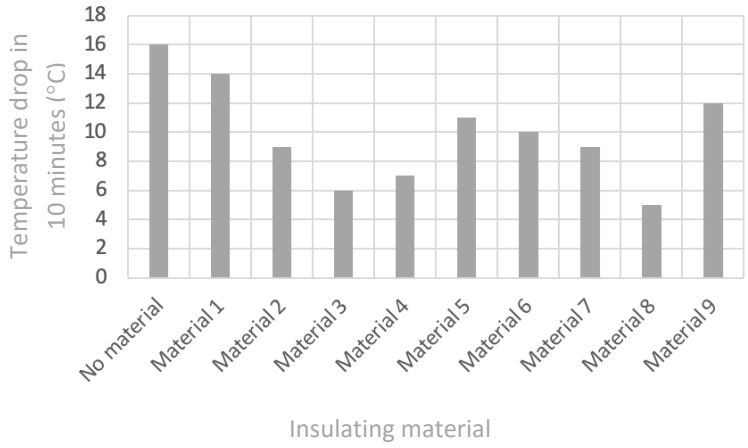
Write a list of the materials in order, starting with the best insulator and ending with the worst (some might be the same). You decide whether to use the mean or median for this.

Do you think that taking the MEAN or the MEDIAN is the best way to average results for this type of experiment? Why? Does it make a difference to the order of the materials, from best to worst insulator?

Date

Plotting a Bar Chart in ICT

Stick your **bar chart** of the temperature change for different insulators from your ICT lessons onto this page



Date

Gathering experimental evidence: Experiment 2

Purpose of experiment	To show how much better your chosen insulating material is at keeping water warm than the measuring cylinder alone

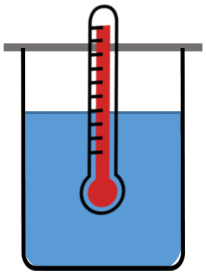
Method: Choose the insulating material that you think would be best for a water bottle cover.
Which did you choose and why? _____
_____

1. Wrap your material around the measuring cylinder and secure it with two rubber bands. Gently pull the material down so that you can see the 100ml mark. *Preheat this apparatus.*
2. One person raise the thermometer and empty out the measuring cylinder while the other empties the beaker and CAREFULLY collects around 200ml of freshly boiled water in the beaker.
3. Carefully pour 100ml of freshly boiled water from the beaker into the measuring cylinder.
4. Quickly lower the thermometer into the measuring cylinder until the lid (still at around the 20°C mark in the thermometer) touches the top of the measuring cylinder. Pull your insulation back up so it covers the whole cylinder.
5. As soon as the temperature has fallen **to the starting temperature your class agreed in the first pilot experiment**, **start the stopwatch** and record this first starting temperature below.
6. After 10 minutes have passed, record the finishing temperature.
7. Record the temperature **every minute** for 10 minutes.

Results

Time (min)	Water temperature (°C)
0	
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	

You are going to plot a line graph of these results in your **Maths** lessons to help you to understand and communicate what they tell you.



Conclusion:

Look back at your results on page 5. Has your insulating material made a significant difference to the finishing temperature of the water? Do you think it would be a suitable material to make a water bottle cover from? Why? Why not?

Date

Your Science teacher might ask you to use this space….

Date

Plotting a Line Graph in Maths

You are going to plot **two** line graphs showing how the water cooled over time, with and without the insulator. It is easier to do this if you have all the data on the same page. Carefully copy your results from pages 5 and 10 onto this page (you could use the workbook of someone else in your group to help you)

A: Results copied from page 5

Drop in water temperature over time with NO Insulator

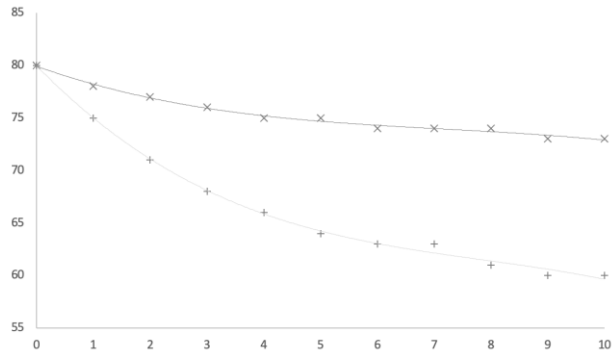
Time (min)	Water temperature (°C)
0	
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	

B: Results copied from page 10

Drop in water temperature over time with your chosen insulator (which one?_____)

Time (min)	Water temperature (°C)
0	
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	

Now PLOT a line graph for each set of results on the next page.



Your graph might look a bit like this. Don't forget that you also need to:

- Label the axes (with units) to show what the numbers mean
- Label the two lines to explain the different experiments
- Give your graph a title

Once you have plotted the graphs, turn over and answer the questions

Date

Discussion:

What differences can you see between the two graphs?

What similarities can you see?

Describe the shape of the graphs. What does it show you about the temperature change?

If you think you have given a full description of the graphs, try the extension activities….

Extension:

Remember: Mean and median are two different sorts of average.

- MEAN means “add all the data up and divide by the number of bits of data you had”.
- MEDIAN means “arrange the data in order and find the middle bit”.

Calculate the MEAN for each set of data

Calculate the MEDIAN for each set of data

What do you notice?

Why do you think the MEAN and the MEDIAN for THE SAME set of data might be different? Does this tell you anything about how quickly the temperature changes near the start and near the end?