

Prize Winner

Scientific Inquiry

Year 3-4

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Grange Primary School





Department of Defence





Which everyday objects have the most bacteria?

Cameron Pearce and Tomi Morea

QUESTIONING AND PREDICTING:

What is the question that you are investigating?

Bacteria are small organisms that are found in all natural environments. Most can only be seen with a microscope as they are only a single cell. More than 100 trillion bacterial organisms live inside our gut, both good and bad. The helpful bacteria breaks-down nutrients from food, medicine and protect against diseases. Bacteria that cause diseases can get into the human body through your nose, mouth, and cuts in your skin. Bacteria quickly reproduce and cause infection. We can spread the bad bacteria by touching infected surfaces, body fluids and faeces, spreading bacteria in the air by coughing or spitting.

We are interested to know which surfaces around our house and the kind of environment that bacteria like to grow best. Our question is **"Which everyday objects have the most bacteria?"**

What do you predict will happen?

We will test 8 different surfaces and our predictions from most to least bacteria are:

- 1. Toilet seat
- 2. Bathroom faucet/sink
- 3. ipad
- 4. Car Keys
- 5. Steering wheel
- 6. Nintendo Switch Remote
- 7. Door knob
- 8. Light switch

We predict the toilet seat will have the most bacteria because when we go to the toilet the bacteria from our bottom falls onto the seat. The light switch will have the least as we don't use it often.

Bacteria might grow best on surfaces that are damp. Surface that we touch or use a lot would probably have more bacteria from our hands and body fluids.

PLANNING AND CONDUCTING:

Explain why you chose the particular method for your investigation.

To investigate our question we need to make Agar plates which are used a lot in science labs. They contain Agar and nutrients which makes a solid surface for the bacteria to grow on. Most bacteria divide to form two separate cells. These divide again and billions of bacteria can form from a single bacteria in only 24 hours. When bacteria grow on the Agar they form colonies which we can count without a microscope.

Which variable will you change?

The variable that we will change is the object/surface being tested (see predictions).

Which variable will you measure?

The variable that we will be measuring is the number of bacteria colonies.

Is your investigation a 'fair test'?

The investigation is a fair test because only one independent variable (object/surface) is changed and all the controlled conditions (temperature, light, air conditions, plates, time they will grow) are kept the same. A control plate is used to show it is the surfaces causing bacteria to grow not the conditions.

Describe all the steps of your investigation so that someone else could do it again exactly as you did it.

Methods:

Wash your hands and any materials you'll be using to help prevent germs from contaminating your experiment.

How to prepare 9 Agar plates:

Need adult supervision/help!

- 1. Wash and dry the petri dishes. Cover them with lids.
- 2. Add 2 cups of water to a pot and bring it to boil on the stovetop.
- 3. Add 2 teaspoons each of beef stock, sugar and agar to the boiling water. Stir until dissolved.
- 4. Take the mixture off the heat and allow it to cool for a few minutes.
- 5. Remove the lids from the petri dishes and fill each dish halfway with the mixture. Replace the lids and leave space for moisture to escape as the mixture cools.
- 6. Refrigerate your covered petri dishes for at least four hours to allow the Agar to set and ready to use.

Collect bacteria samples:

- 1. Wipe the iPad screen with a damp, clean cotton swab.
- 2. Open one petri dish and lightly rub your sample across the agar in a zig zag pattern (use the same pattern for all tests). Dispose of the swab.
- 3. Replace the lid on the dish and tape it closed.
- 4. Label the dish with the date and sample. place it into a sealed plastic bag and set aside.
- 5. Clean the surface of the iPad.
- 6. Repeat steps 1-4 in your second Petri dish with a new surface and keep doing this for all dishes.
- 7. Set up a control plate where you do not wipe anything on the surface.

Incubate the bacteria colonies:

- 1. Place your petri dishes upside down inside a box and close the lid.
- 2. Place the box near a warm spot. We put the computer modem on top of the box.
- 3. Leave them to incubate for 3 days.
- 4. Remove the petri dishes from the box. Count the number of bacterial colonies growing on each plate and describe them using the charts for morphology of bacterial colonies.
- 5. To dispose put all bags with dishes in a biological waste bag.

EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS:

List all the equipment and materials that you used in your investigation.

Materials:

- 9 Petri dishes
- 2 teaspoons beef stock powder
- 2 cups water
- 2 teaspoons sugar
- 2 teaspoons Agar powder
- Pot
- Spoon
- Stove
- 9 sealable plastic bags
- Clear tape
- Permanent marker
- Cotton swabs
- Box
- Modem

List any possible risks that may result from the investigation and describe how they were controlled.

Biological Risk- We are working with bacteria and mould and could get infected or sick by the germs. We controlled this by not touching the bacteria, taping the lids on the plates, keeping them in bags only opened by adults, cleaning areas with antibacterial spray and disposed of the plates in biological waste bags.

Thermal Risk- We are working with a stove and risk getting burnt by the fire. We controlled this by not putting our face or hands close to the stove and an adult turned it on/off.

PROCESSING AND ANALYSING DATA AND INFORMATION:

3 days after we set up our plates we counted the bacteria colonies and wrote down what we could see using these charts.

MARGIN	COLOUR	ELEVATION TEXTURE		SHAPE
	Orange	Raised	Slimy, moist	Pound
Entire (smooth)	Red or pink	Umbonate	Matte, brittle	Punctiform
Filamentous	Black	Flat	Shiny, viscous	Rhizoid (root-like)
Undulate (wavy)	Brown	Convex	Dry, mucoid	Filamentous
Lobate	Opaque or white	Pulvinate (Cushion- shaped)	Translucent	Regular 1
پرین کرریک Erose (serrated)	O Milky	Growth into culture medium	Iridescent (changes colour in reflected light)	Spindle

Colony Morphology of Bacteria



https://www.studocu.com/en-ca/document/university-of-toronto/biology/2022-lab-2-microbes-i-worksheet-1/29277689



Control plate- shows no bacteria so the conditions such as air and agar dish did not cause bacteria to grow.

Bacteria growing on Agar plates 3 days after wiping the surfaces



Bacteria growing on our Agar plates 3 days after wiping the surfaces



Surface	Approximate number of bacteria colonies	Size	Shape	Margin	Colour	Elevation	Texture
Bathroom faucet	Confluent (all grown together)	Dish Mostly covered	Irregular	Entire	Opaque	Raised	Shiny, viscous
Toilet Seat	Hundreds many many hundreds	Punctiform and small	Circular	Entire	White and opaque	Convex	Shiny, viscous
Car keys	91	Moderate	Circular	Entire	Opaque	Pulvinate	Translucent Shiny, Viscous
Steering Wheel	120	Punctiform and Small	Circular	Entire	Milky	Convex	Shiny, viscous
Light switch	11	Punctiform x5 Small x 3 Large x3	Fungus x 1 Circular	Entire	Milky, white	Pulvinate	Shiny, viscous
lpad	9	Punctiform x 6 Small x 2 Large x 1	Fungus x 1 Circular	Entire	Opaque, white	Pulvinate	Shiny, viscous
Nintendo Switch Game Control	4	Punctiform	Circular	Entire	Opaque, white	Flat	Matte
Door knob	1	Punctiform	Circular	Entire	white	flat	Matte

RESULTS: Day 3 observations of each of the Agar plates

Our table shows many different sizes and numbers of bacteria colonies growing on each of the surfaces.

Our conclusion from our results is that these surfaces have the most to least bacteria:

- 1. **Bathroom faucet and sink-** Had the most because the plate was covered all over with confluent bacteria.
- 2. Toilet seat- Hundreds of punctiform and small circular bacterial colonies.
- 3. Car keys- 91 moderate circular bacteria colonies.
- 4. **Steering wheel**-120 punctiform and small circular bacterial colonies. More colonies than the keys but were a lot smaller so we thought the keys had more overall bacteria.
- 5. **Light switch**-11 bacterial colonies (5 punctiform, 3 small, 3 large circular). Also has 1 fungus.
- 6. **iPad** –9 colonies (6 punctiform, 2 small, 1 large circular). It has 1 fungus.
- 7. Nintendo control-Only 4 punctiform circular bacteria colonies.
- 8. Door-knob-Only 1 punctiform circular colony.

We thought that the toilet seat would have the most bacteria but our results didn't show this. The bathroom faucet/sink had more bacteria that the toilet seat which is similar to a study we found that took samples from surfaces in a public toilet. The sink was top of their list with more than 100 colony forming units. The bathroom faucet/sink has the most bacteria because it has all our spit from when we brush our teeth, and bacteria from when we wash our hands.

We noticed that the top two surfaces with bacteria are used a lot and are in a moist environment which bacteria like to grow in.

We thought the iPad would have more bacteria, because Cameron uses it a lot but maybe he just cleaned it. The door knob may have been cleaned too as it had the least bacteria.

EVALUATING:

How could your investigation be improved?

We could improve our experiment by using a microscope to have more clear results of numbers. But we would need an expert.

How could your findings be useful to others?

This information helps us understand which objects grow the most bacteria and which need to be cleaned more often so that we don't get germs and get sick when we touch them.

What other related questions could be further investigated?

What are the different kinds of bacteria and fungus that grow on each of these different surfaces? It would be good to learn their proper names.

REFERENCES:

https://kids.kiddle.co/Agar_plate

https://www.mi-sci.org/learn/families/athomescience/

https://kids.britannica.com/kids/article/bacteria/352814

https://www/germinator.com/blog/how-do-germs-spread-on-surface/

https://www/studocu.com/en-ca/document/university-of-toronto/biology/2022-lab-2-microbes-iworksheet-1/29277689

https://www.infectioncontroltoday.com/view/study-shows-bathroom-sink-more-contaminated-toilet

Word count: 1096

Which Everyday Objects Have The Most Bacteria! What are we planning to do? We are planning to dab cotton buds on ten different everyday Surfaces, then to wife the bacteria from the cotton buds on agar plates. When done we will put the agar plates into an incubator, then to see which surface has the most bacteria. Surfaces we will be testing ... Toilet Seat as the a direction Maller in and proven all and a second and a second tools . loor knob . phone I pad and she was a more a water in the hard . bathroom fauces Sink N. ARASHI LAND Street Charles . Steering wheel in the second se Shine and share . light Switch ind he woold have and a free leans . Switch remose - . Car Keys We are interested to know which surfaces and the kind We are inconstant to know when surfaces when we have of environment that bacteria like to grow on best." They might like to grow best on surfaces that are done and the surpaces that we usually touch or use a bot would probably have that we usually touch or use a bot would probably have that we usually touch or use a bot which surfaces probably meed to be deared most offen so that we don't get get and get sick when we touch them. most interes. 12 parts 1 for any

Surface Variable - This is what we will be changing. 12 P P We think the keys for my dads com will have a decent amount of bacteria. C 0 e I think it will have a decent amount of backeria because every line you five the car you touch the car keys. 2 e e 2 We think that Cameron plays Nintendo switch a lat and never washes his hands before playings 0 And also when ever he plays just dance our sweat goes into the remose; Camerons dad them Car has a los, of 2 pacteria because every time he drives the car he tauches the steering wheel, and he problaty doesn't wash his hands before driving the caro 9 6 2 B e We designtely think that the talet seat has the most backeria because every time we have to go to the toilet he sit down, or stand, up and all the bacteria, from our pum falls down into the toilet seats.

4 6 23 farce + Sink We think the toild will have a los of bacteria because it is being used all the time to wash peoples hands, and where we spit out spit-1 7 That's why we think the toilet & fauces will loss of bacteria. The door handle will have a quite normal amount of bacteria because this is the door to the kitches, and we have to lean out hand before going into the litchen. windels. That we will be preased in a barburd 1 The light smith switch would have a doubt bit among of bacteria because gove don't normally two, the light off and "that means that the light doesn't assually get twood on much = T LUE III R T HIT il C The goad would have a lat of pacterial pecause we use it a lat for school and for gaming. 1 10

What We Think most bacteria. france most ta bast. Toilet most 9,6,03 2. bathoom fauce + sink wheel 3+1pad 4. Key S 5. Steering wheel binnierde isnitch remove 2 Joon Knot . 8. light switch least dependent it The fatiable that we will be measuring is backerial growth. In order to test out question we need to try and make Some agat dishes to grow the bacteria on 5 Agar plates are a Fetri dish that contains agar 5 and some nutrients for the bacteria to grav bacteria 5 When bateria grow on the agar plate they form 5 colonies. Each colony has similar genetic characteristics E E The investigation is a fair test as one variable (the independent variable the different surfaces tested) is changed and all other conditions (controlled variables the temperature, 5 F F light, air conditions tagar plates, time they will be grain, are kept the same, F C The dependent variable measured or observed is bacterial growth. We also set up a control plate that did not have anything. Wiped onto it so that we knew that it was the surgice that was causing the bacteria to grow, not the conditions. F F ÷ 3 -

What We leed 4.6.23 From https://www.mi-sci.org/learn /families/gthomescience/ Materials. Petre dishes or served condiment cups with lide. I teaspoon of beeg stack powder or beeg bullion. I teaspoon of sugar. I teaspoon of sugar. I teaspoon of agar powder or gdatin. Spoon
Spoon
two sealable plastic possiclear tape for each dish.
permonent more or filt-tip pen.
2 cotton swaps per dish. Andpfull adult. Por Over How to prepare an agar plate. A Note: Sanitation is very important in this experiment? Though you won't reach completely sterile conditions while experimenting at home. it's important to mosh your hards, the counter and any materials you'll be using throughly. This will help prevent germs from entering your petri dish and contaminating your experiment. I. After Washing and drying the petri dishes or condiment cup's, Cover them with the lids. 2. With the help of your adult, add the (up of Water to a pos,
and bring it to a boil on the Stovetop.
3. Add the beef Stock powder, Sugar, and gelotine to the boiling
Water. Stir will dissolved. A. Take the mixture off the hear and allow it to cool for ten minutes. 5. Remove the lid from the petri dish, and with the help of your adult, feel each petri dish half-way with the mixture. Quickley Set the lid atop each petri dish, leaving for noisture to escape ast the mixture cools · 6. Regrigerate the covered dishes for at least four hours, to allow the agar to set. . Keep plates regrigerated till ready to use.

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What is Bacteria?

Bacteria are small organisms, or living things, that are found in all natural environments , for example, soil, water, plants, animals, radioactive waste. Most can only be seen with a microscope as they are made of a single cell. E

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Bacteria do not have most of the structures found in the cells of other organisms. They are much simpler and smaller than all other cells of living things.

Bacteria take in food and get rid of waste through their cell walls. Most bacteria reproduce by dividing down the middle to form two separate cells. These cells then each divide again to form into four cells. Through this process, billions of bacteria may form from a single bacterium in only 24 hours.

Right now, there are more than 100 trillion bacterial microorganisms in your body, both good and bad, that are living inside the gut of our stomach. The helpful bacteria helps break down nutrients from food, break down medicine and protect against diseases. But when the body gets too much bacteria in our gut, they need to fight them off to keep healthy.

Bacteria that cause diseases can get into the human body through the nose, the mouth, and cuts in the skin. Bacteria quickly reproduce and cause infection. We can spread the bad bacteria by touching infected surfaces or foods, bodily fluids, spreading bacteria in the air by coughing or spitting and contact with faeces.

> https://kids.britannica.com/kids/article/bacteria/35 2814

https://www.germinator.com/blog/how-do-germsspread-on-surfaces/

7 16 123 - How to collect bacteria samples. -1 Nipe the screen of the ipad with a clean cotton swale. -Z. Open the petri dish, and lightly rub your sample across the agas in zig zag patterns. Jispose of the cotton sweets a after use. 3-3, Replace the lid on the petri aish, and tope it closed. A Use a marker to label the dish with the date and the date and the name on the sample. Place the plate in a sealed plastic bog and set aside. 5, dean the surface of the ipad, and use a new clean 36, Repeat stens 1.4 in your second petri dish. with bathroom Incubate the bacteria colonies: I. Place your petri dishes upside down inside a box and close the lid. 2. Set up your incubator by placing the box near a warm Spor, We put it under a moder M, under the computer desk. I leave the plate to incubate for 2-5- lays.



Setting Up agat dispes (real experiment) 9.6.3 We prepared nine agar plates as withten on page (5) We needed to do it two times to make enough agar. So used - 2 aps of water, 2 transpoons of sugar and 2 transpoons of agar pander and 2 teappoons of beotstock. 2 3 T 1 1997 203 1 TUN 3 3 17 ---10 E. 111 4 3 D 2 (alla in the TIN HAT (9) (b)G 0 3 FILT au in C 10 100 1 T until 1 the. fridge ere H nege HE IC D



SERVATI 916123 I pad observation. it has a funques spot. It has multiput white bacteria. bathroom sink it is a colonised with gray black plear bacteria. Torlet seat The tailet seat also has fungus. This evidence that we can actually grow bacteria on our agar distes, so we'll go ahead with the real experiment. 1 NOTE: My mum helped by taking the photos \$ 50 we dedn't touch the bacteria (1)

6 16 123 . teria na omples 1 E 6 elia bad e w 5 Zig C OR C C 6 0 9 2 e e e e 9 e e E C C C E CHARACTERISTICS OF BACTERIAL COLONY 6 MORPHOLOGY Shape * 0 The Circular Rhizoid Irregular Filamentous Spindle I'lle 6 Margin Entire Undulate Lobate Curled Rhizoid Filamentous 6 6 Elevation Flat Raised Convex Pulvinate Umbonate Size 6 Punctiform Small Moderate Large Texture Smooth or rough ,dry, moist, mucoid, rugose (wrinkled). Glistening (shiny) or dull Appearance Pigmentation Nonpigmented (e.g., cream, tan, white) Pigmented (e.g., purple, red, yellow) 6 6

Biologyconcepts

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Optical

property

Opaque, translucent, transparent

16/6/23 5 to describe 11 baclena growing the. ear on 1 dates and we 0 found Some 101 descr Monoholagu of 010 baderie, as we need a microscope. So Canit laurt each counting backetia colonies. We are just (112 -**Colony Morphology of Bacteria** -1 (1) MARGIN COLOUR **ELEVATION** TEXTURE SHAPE 1 3 Orange Raised Slimy, moist -Round Curled -.... 3 5 Red or pink Umbonate Matte, brittle 3 Punctiform Entire (smooth) -WEA arge 3 Shiny. Black Flat viscous 3 Moderate Rhizoid Filamentous 2 (root-like) 2 3 Small Dry, mucoid 3 Brown Convex 7 Punctiform Undulate (wavy) Filamentous 2 2 Opaque or Translucent 3 white Pulvinate Irregular Lobate (Cushion-2 shaped) Size 0 Iridescent 2 (changes M Growth into colour in Milky Spindle culture reflected medium Erose (serrated) light) 1 https://www.studoca.com/en-ca/document/university-of-21 toponto/biology/2022 - lab-2-micropes-i-worksheet-1/ 29277689

15 16 123 late showed that it didn't " any bacteria growing in the other" 3 days after howe any ateing, our controll, date showed teria at all, therefore any bacteria for the surface variable les is G C Co 2 6 e e 2 C Contro 2 e e 9 e e e C C C E 6 6 6 6 R

1 Results Lay 3 Bacteria Growing 3 Days After Plating. 15 1 6 1 23 9 -20 -Bon throom 2 -2 2 3 fourd 3 -Tan P T P H. 0 3 0 1 (T) T eat 100 10 T - TH 14 0 N Oilet 0 0 1 1 -B 10

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Results Conclusion 18.6.23 Based on day three results we observed many lifterent sizes of bacterial colonies on the eight dipperent plates as well as the amount growing from each of the surfaces. F C 6 e 6 Based on our results from most to least bacterial colon's 6 e. 1. Bathboom faucet - Bacteria gren on most of the surface + Sink 2. Toilet seat 6 e e e 3. Las keys 3. Lat keys ? Hard to tell apart as car keys had Elarget bur less colonies, but steering 4. Steering Wheel? Wheel had note but punctiform. e e e E 5. light Switch. 6. 1 pad ... 7. yome control 6 8. door- Knob 0 We thought that the toilet seet would have the most bacteric growing in the plate. But the bathrooms forcet had more bacteria then the toilet seat, 5 F We found a studie that found a similar results to what we had. They took multiple, samples from objects and surgaces in a public toilet and tested them for levels or bacteria. The top of the USE ways the sink wich showed more then 1,900 colony forming units (https://www.infectioncontroltoday.com/view/study-1 U 6 6 6 1 (T (Fri shows-bathroom-sink-more-contaminated - toilit) 100

The bathrom fance, has the most backeria because it has zall our spit, our pacteria when we wash our hands. (from when weybrushour teeth) • the sink has a lot of moisture with supports backerial groth. -. We though that the igad have a lot of backeria because ameron plays a lot and uses it for school every day, but perhaps Cameron wiped it not long ago. Nintendo . We also thought the door know and control would also have a decent amount of bacteria transferred from dirty hands, but they had the least. --

Extra Observations 20,6,23 Ne wanted to observe the bacterial colonies after a 7 days of groth on the agar plates. But The results from day 3 were pretty clear and on day 7 there was a lot of fungers mould growing on the dishes, so was hard to overve bacteria colonies. So we add the photos just to show the growth of the different types of bacteria and mould/fung). e e e e e Contro C E (+: F 6 Bacteria











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Further questions that we can investigate. What we the different types of bacteria and fungic-growing on the plate. ---3 3 3 THE 100

OSA RISK ASSESSMENT FORM

for all entries in (\checkmark) \Box Models & Inventions and \Box Scientific Inquiry

This must be included with your report, log book or entry. One form per entry.

STUDENT(S) NAME: (aneron Pearce, Tomi Morea	ID: 0218 - 039
SCHOOL: Grange Primary	
Activity: Give a brief outline of what you are planning to do.	
We are planning to investigate eight differ	int
Surgares to see which has the most back	eria.
We will be testing the backeria on agar plate	ß.

Are there possible risks? Consider the following:

- Chemical risks: Are you using chemicals? If so, check with your teacher that any chemicals to be used are on the approved list for schools. Check the safety requirements for their use, such as eye protection and eyewash facilities, availability of running water, use of gloves, a well-ventilated area or fume cupboard.
- Thermal risks: Are you heating things? Could you be burnt?
- Biological risks: Are you working with micro-organisms such as mould and bacteria?
- Sharps risks: Are you cutting things, and is there a risk of injury from sharp objects?
- Electrical risks: Are you using mains (240 volt) electricity? How will you make sure that this is safe? Could you use a battery instead?
- Radiation risks: Does your entry use potentially harmful radiation such as UV or lasers?
- Other hazards.

Also, if you are using other people as subjects in an investigation you must get them to sign a note consenting to be part of your experiment.

Risks	How I will control/manage the risk
We are Working With bacteria and maybe mould Which Could make us Very Sick. • Thermal Fisk we are hearing things on a store. (Attach another sheet if needed.) Risk Assessment indice RISK ASSESSMENT COMPLETED BY (stude	We will keep the agar plates lid's taped on and in a bag. Wash our hands. We will not touch the bacteria. We will not touch the bacteria. We will not touch the bacteria. May not the lid action and stay mark took the lid action and stay we will dispose in a biological waster bit we will be careful and have parental supervision sates that this activity can be safely carried out
SIGNATURE(S): By ticking this box, I/we state that my/or TEACHER'S NAME:	bur project adheres to the listed criteria for this Category.