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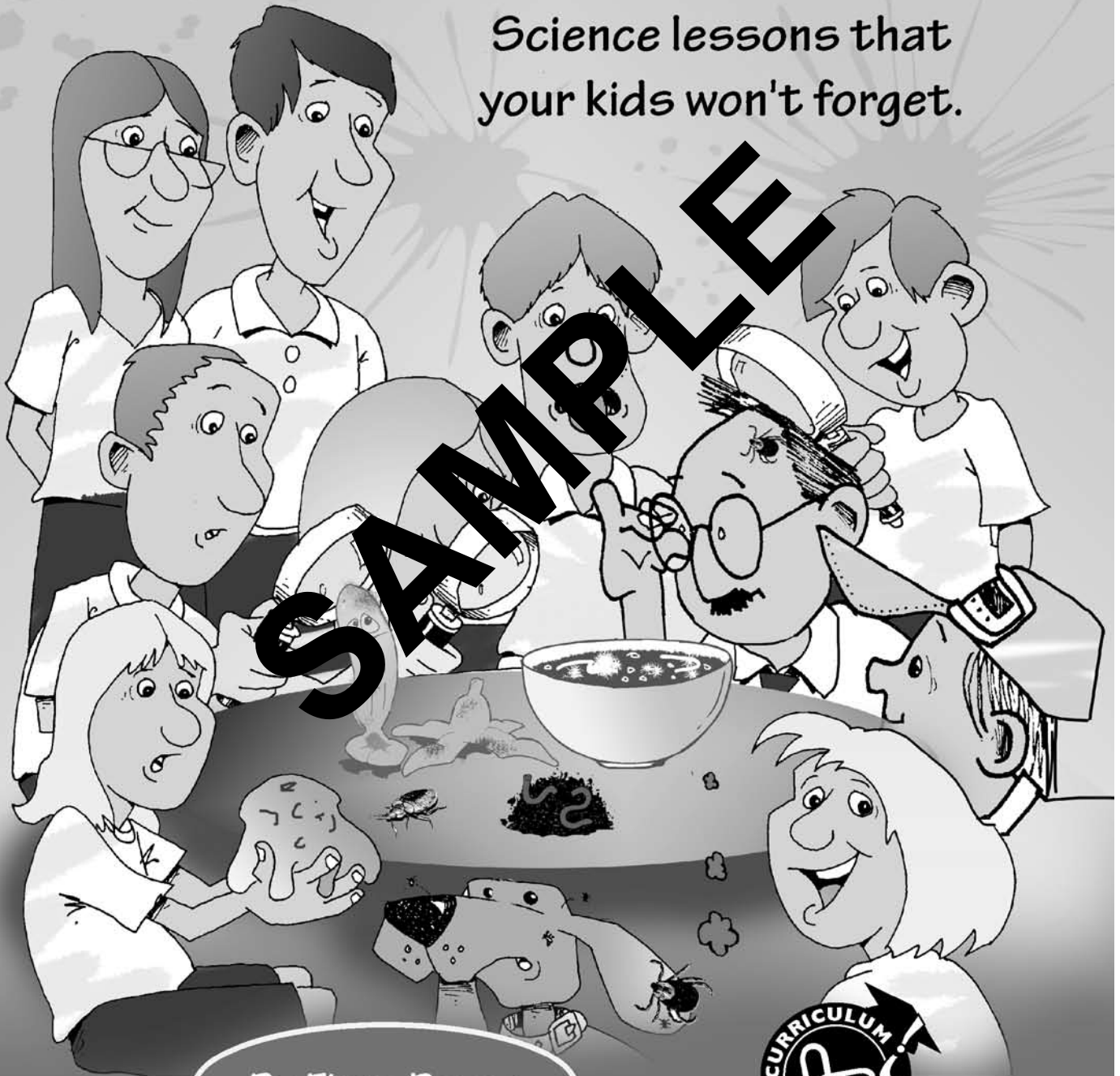
Ready-Ed
Publications

For 9-13 years

PHOTOCOPY
MASTERS

That's Disgusting!

Science lessons that
your kids won't forget.



By Fiona Rayns





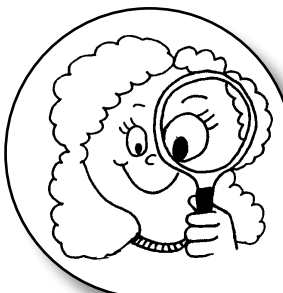
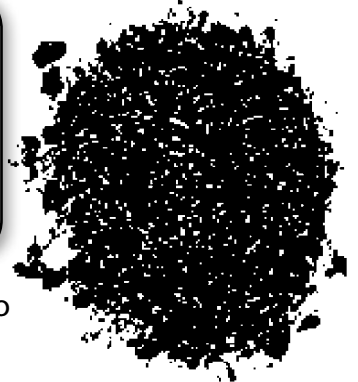
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SAMPLE



Investigating Earthworms

For this investigation, you will need to gently remove a worm from the school grounds and bring it into the classroom. Remember to be gentle when you handle any living creature – earthworms do have a nervous system and they can feel pain. Try to keep your worm in a cool spot and out of direct sunlight. Direct sunlight dries out their skin and makes their small breathing holes close up.



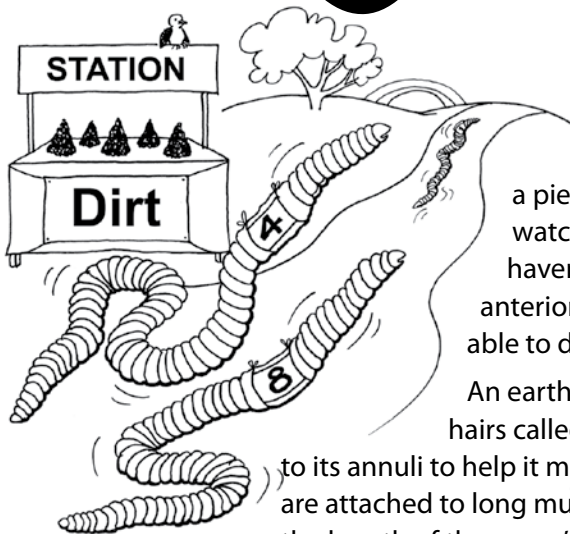
If you can, try to get hold of a magnifying glass so that you can inspect your worm in great detail.

Using a pencil, carefully draw your earthworm in the space below.

1. Measure your worm and add a scale to your drawing.
2. Label the anterior (front) and posterior (end).
3. Try to count the number of annuli (segments) that your worm has and compare this with other worms being studied. Do you think your worm is old or young? _____
4. What colour/s is it? Is it the same colour all over? (Look at its front, back, top and bottom.)

5. Gently hold the worm – describe how it feels.

SAMPLE



Worm Olympics

Gently place your worm on a piece of paper and watch it move. (If you haven't labelled its anterior, you should be able to do so now.)

An earthworm has tiny hairs called 'setae' attached

to its annuli to help it move. The hairs are attached to long muscles that run the length of the worm's body. When the muscles contract and relax, the hairs dig into the ground and help the worm

to move. If you listen very carefully, you should be able to hear the little hairs scratching on the paper.

- Put a small obstacle (e.g. an eraser or pencil) in your worm's way. What happens? _____
- See if you can make one end of the paper shadier than the other. Where does the worm go? _____

When you've finished, carefully put your worm back in the place where you got it from – it must be hungry and exhausted from all the exercise.



THE STORY OF MIKE THE HEADLESS CHICKEN



©Wikimedia commons

On the 10th of September 1931, a farmer in America decided to have chicken for tea. He took his axe and went outside to kill a young rooster called Mike. Unfortunately for the farmer and even more unfortunately for Mike, the farmer made a mess of things. Although he managed to chop off most of Mike's head, his axe missed some important bits and so nearly headless Mike remained alive.

Mike could still walk and balance on a perch - but obviously from that time on, preening, crowing and feeding were a problem.

The farmer, perhaps feeling rather guilty, used an eyedropper to feed his headless chook. Amazingly Mike continued to grow and as his story spread the bird became a celebrity.

There are many strange animals in the world (maybe you're sitting next to one of them). Some look strange, some sound strange, and some have strange habits.

Match up the animal with its foul trait.

- Preying mantis → Cane toads → Hagfish
 → Rabbits → Hippos

Fussy eaters - eat their own soft droppings but not their hard ones.



Cannibal carers - tuggle their toes to attract a mating partner and then gobble up their own babies.



Femur eaters - females dig on their partners during sex after mating.



Mucus makers - escape from predators by making bucketsful of slime.



Scented stinkers - attract a mate by flicking urine and faeces around with their tails.

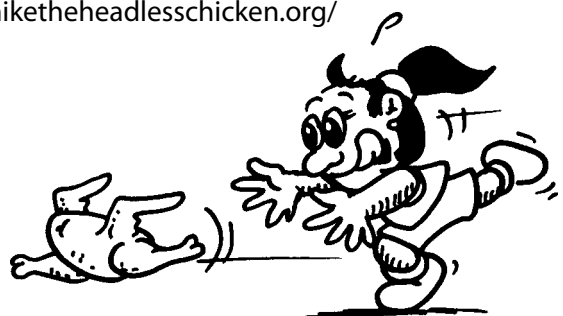


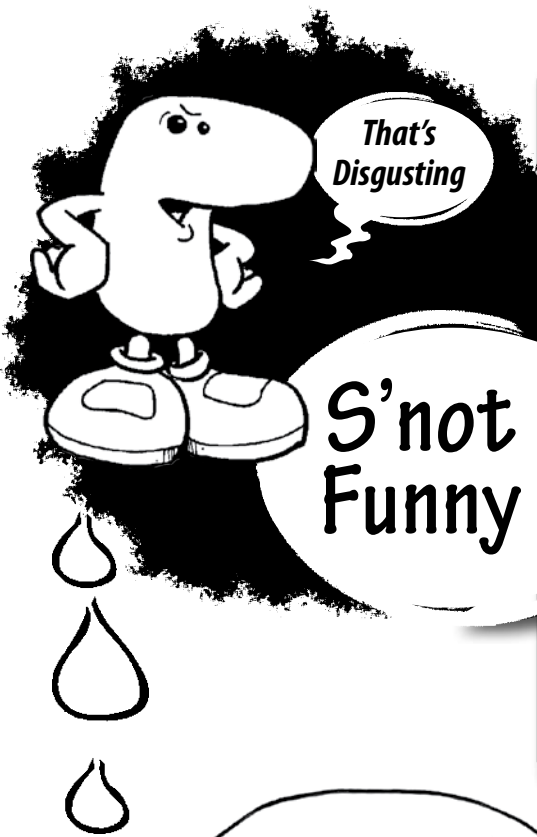
His photograph appeared in newspapers and magazines across America. The farmer took Mike on tour, charging people to see him.

Mike eventually died 18 months after the accident. A postmortem showed that although he'd lost much of his head, his ear and most of his brain stem had remained. Many basic functions, e.g. breathing and a heartbeat are controlled by the brainstem, this allowed Mike to survive for so long.

To find more information about this famous bird visit:

→ www.miketheheadlesschicken.org/





Blowing your nose on your fingers and picking your nose in public was okay in the Middle Ages but get caught doing it today and you'll find that you'll start to lose friends fast.

Surprisingly, about 70% of people pick their noses – most people do it when they know that no one is looking.

SECRET SURVEY

Find out how common nose picking is in your class. To conduct the survey, each person marks a piece of paper with either a tick (to indicate that they're a "picker") or a cross (to indicate that they're a "non-picker"). You don't need to write your name on the paper. Let your teacher collect the papers, do the maths and get back to you with the results.

Percentage who pick = _____

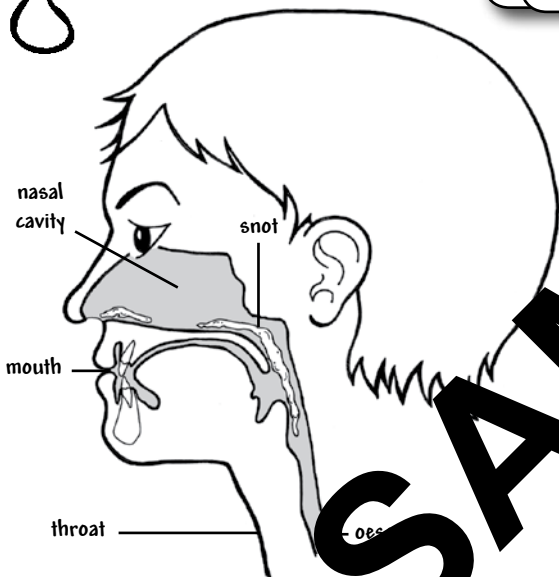
Good News for Pickers

For the people in your class who do indulge, there may be some good news.

Professor Friedrich, an Austrian lung specialist thinks that it's healthy, not only to pick your nose, but also eat it. He thinks:

Picking helps keep your nose cleaner because your sensitive fingers can reach into places that a tissue can't.

- *Eating what you collect helps to strengthen your immunity because you get to eat bacteria that your nose has filtered out.*



Gross Fact

Your nose produces snot (or mucus) all the time. It is made by membranes that line the inside of your nasal cavity. Each day about a cupful (0.5 L) of snot slides its way down the back of your throat and into your stomach. Some stays in your nose and dries out when you breathe.

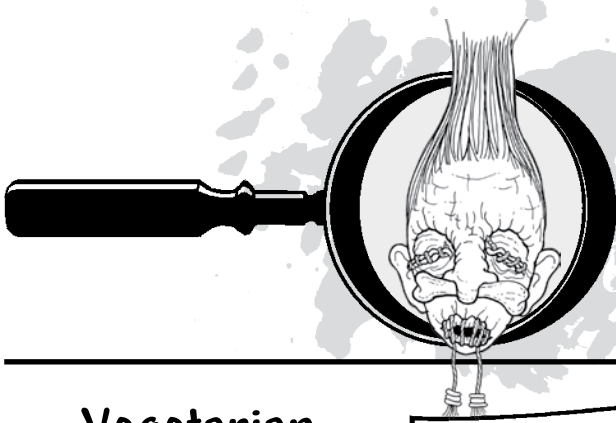
You may have noticed that snot can come in a range of colours.

Match up the colour of snot with its most likely cause.

COLOUR OF SNOT

CAUSE

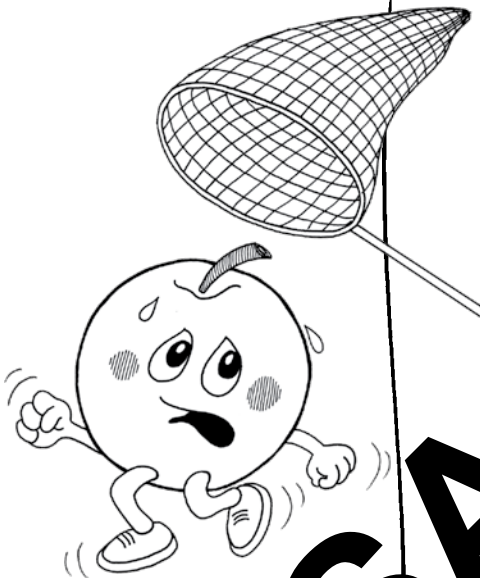
Yellow	Brown	Normal colour
		Infection
	Red	Infection
Green		Dusty environment
Clear	Black	Smoky environment
		Bleeding



Make Your Own Shrunken Head

Vegetarian alternative

Today you're going to make your own shrunken head by following an ancient vegetarian recipe.



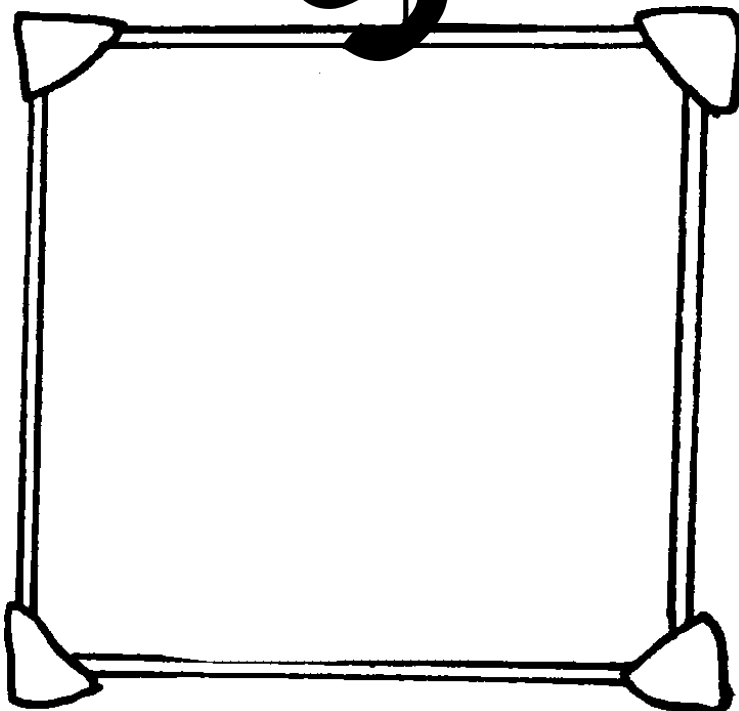
EQUIPMENT:

An apple, a small knife or potato peeler, 1 cup of lemon juice, 2 teaspoons of salt, potato peeler, whole cloves, a few grains of rice, paint, feathers and shells (optional).

METHOD:

1. Capture your apple.
2. Separate the skin from the flesh by peeling it (peel may be eaten or thrown in river to placate Ananias the God.)
3. Dip the "flesh" in a mixture of lemon juice and salt (this turns it turning brown).
4. Carefully carve out eye sockets, a nose, mouth and ears using the peeler or knife.
5. Push cloves and rice into the "flesh" to highlight nostrils and eyes.
6. Leave to dry.
7. Colour the head with plant dyes or paint and decorate with feathers and shells.
8. Wear around your neck.

SAMPLE



Draw a picture or take a photo of your "shrunken head" and put it in the frame.

