How to Make Berry Ink

About this activity

With this activity, learn how to make your very own ink with blueberries.

Time
45 minutes

Materials

- 1 cup of blueberries (150g)
- 2 teaspoons of white vinegar
- 1 teaspoon of salt
- Sieve
- Bowl
- Large spoon
- Teaspoon
- Potato masher
- Saucepan and hob
- Small bottle with a lid
- Piece of paper
- Paintbrush or tooth pick
- Rubber gloves
- Piece of muslin cloth (150x150 cm) - optional

Next time
Why not try making ink from a different kind of berry?

Instructions

1. Pour the berries into the saucepan and heat the berries on a low-medium heat on the hob for 5 minutes, making sure the berries do not burn.
2. While heating, gently crush the berries using the potato masher.
3. After 5 minutes let the berries cool for 20 minutes.
4. Once the berries are cool, put them in the sieve and then put the sieve over a bowl. If you are using muslin, place the muslin between the sieve and the bowl. Use a large spoon to crush the berries so the juice drips into the bowl.

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Instructions continued

5. Optional step: strain the berries a second time using the muslin cloth. Gather the muslin and squeeze the juice out into the bowl.
6. Add the vinegar and salt to the berry pulp, then with the teaspoon stir the mixture until everything has dissolved.
7. Transfer the mixture to the small bottle.
8. Write your message using a paintbrush or tooth pick.
9. Store your ink bottle in a cool, dry place with the lid on.

Watch out!

This activity requires the berries to be heated on a hob. Ask your adult for help.

The berry ink can stain your clothes and hands, wear rubber gloves and be careful to not get ink on your clothes.

Did you know?

The berry ink will change colour over time because the berries react with the oxygen in the air.

Different berries will create different colour inks. You can also try blackberries, raspberries, or even cherries.