

Is Any Chewing Gum Really Healthy?

In this experiment you are going to test and evaluate whether any chewing gum has the ability to clean teeth

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- *9 Volunteers
- *1 Apple, cut into 9 slices
- *3 Cups
- *Mint-flavored gum
- *Cinnamon-flavored gum
- *Fruit-flavored gum
- *Water
- *Journal for your results
- *Pen
- *9 Pre-prepared petri dishes with agar
- *Cotton Swabs
- *Labels
- *Camera
- *Timer or Stopwatch



EXPERIMENT PROCESS:

- *To introduce sugar into the mouth, instruct each volunteer to eat one slice of apple.
- *When they're finished, have each volunteer chew a stick of mint gum for 5 minutes.
- *Gently swab each volunteer's bottom gum line with a cotton swab about five times. Make sure you take your sample from the same gum line area of each volunteer. It is very important to be consistent.
- *Spread the contents of each cotton swab into its own petri dish.
- *Label these three petri dishes "**Mint**".
- *Repeat steps 1 through 5 for cinnamon and fruit-flavored gum, using three new volunteers each time. Label the petri dishes according to which gum was used. Let the petri dishes sit in a dark area overnight.
- *Which gum do you think will clean teeth the best? Write down your guess, which is called a hypothesis, in your journal.
- *Examine the petri dishes the following morning.
- *Photograph your petri dishes and take notes describing each dish's germ growth in your notebook.

Was your hypothesis correct? What was the difference between the results from the cinnamon gum, which is a natural germ killer and the rest?