

Paper Towel Absorbency Test

Activity and Graphing Experiment

- ✓ A fun activity to introduce your students to the Scientific Method
- ✓ The lab is available in Word and PDF format

Paper Towel Absorbency Test

Many brands claim their paper towels are more absorbent than the competitor. We'll test towels from 3 brands to find out which one really absorbs the most liquid.

Materials:

- 3 rolls of paper towels from different brands
- Graduated cylinder
- Water
- Timer or stopwatch
- Paper and pencil

Hypothesis:
Predict which brand of paper towel you think will absorb the most water based on package descriptions or prior experience.

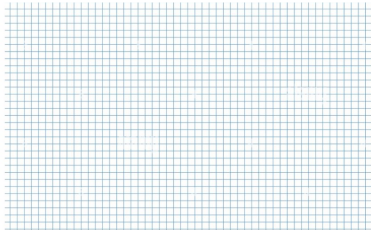
Procedure:

1. Write a hypothesis.
2. Tear off 3 sheets from each brand and label them Trial 1, 2, and 3.
3. Fill a graduated cylinder with 50mL of water.
4. Set a timer for 1 minute.
5. Roll the towel into a cylinder. Start the timer and place it in the water.
6. Quickly remove the towel once one minute has elapsed and let it drain.
7. Repeat steps 3-6 two more times per brand.
8. Average results and record on data table.

Data Table:

Brand	Trial 1 (mL)	Trial 2 (mL)	Trial 3 (mL)
Brand 1			
Brand 2			
Brand 3			

Graph: Create a graph using the averages for the three brands of paper towel.



Conclusion: Which brand absorbed the most water on average based on the data collected?

Reflection:

1. Was your hypothesis supported? Explain.
2. Which brand was the most effective? Least effective?
3. How could you improve this experiment?
4. What did you learn about the scientific process from this experiment?



Students Will Learn

- ✓ How to collect data
- ✓ How to create a hypothesis
- ✓ How to record and represent results using tables and graphs
- ✓ How to interpret results and answer questions based on experimental data



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3. Fill a graduated cylinder with 50mL of water.
4. Set a timer for 1 minute.
5. Roll the towel into a cylinder. Start the timer and place it in the water.
6. Quickly remove the towel once one minute is up and record the volume left in the cylinder.
7. Repeat steps 3-6 two more times per towel.
8. Average results and record on data table. Average = add all results / number of trials

Data Table:

Brand	Trial 1 (mL)	Trial 2 (mL)	Trial 3 (mL)	Average (mL)
Brand 1				
Brand 2				
Brand 3				



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