

Inquiring Minds Want To...GROW!!!

Brought to you by your Park Meadows Science and Technology Team

The Disappearing Penny!

Question:

How can you make a penny disappear?

Materials:

- Recent (1982 or later) Penny
- Cup
- Coca Cola

Procedure:

1. Drop a dirty penny into a cup and pour some Coca Cola or other carbonated soda into the cup.
2. Look at it again a day later: the penny has been cleaned!
3. Put the penny back in the cup of Coke and leave it there for approximately 10 days.
4. Then pour off the coke (DON'T drink it), and look: the penny has completely dissolved away!

Conclusion:

How did it do that? The zinc which makes up the body of the penny beneath the copper jacket is ionized into a zinc 'salt' by the chemicals in the carbonated soda. Now think about your teeth and your stomach when you drink a soda pop.