



# Growing bacteria

You can find jelly dishes like this in laboratories all over the world.

## YOU WILL NEED

Plastic petri dishes (you can buy these online) OR plastic tubs with lids, washed out in very hot water first.



1 stock cube (or 1 teaspoon of powdered stock)



1/2 teaspoon of sugar



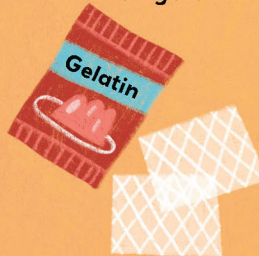
250ml of water, and a jug



Sticky tape



A sachet or 5 leaves of gelatin



This experiment involves boiling water in a pan. Ask an adult to help you.

1

Wash your hands with soapy water. This is REALLY important to make sure bacteria don't get into your dishes as you make them.



2

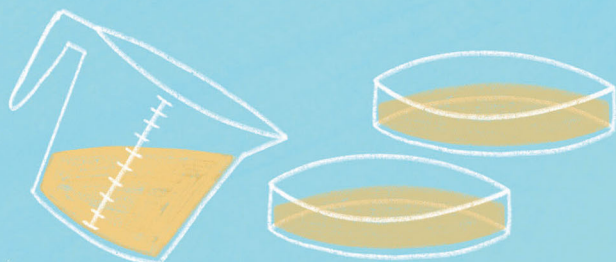
Heat the water in a pan. Add in the stock, sugar and gelatin and stir till they dissolve. Simmer the mixture for half an hour.



Take care with hot pans.

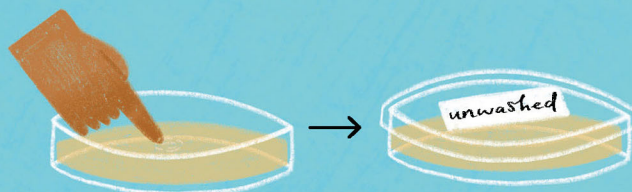
3

Pour the mixture into a jug. Pour a thin layer into two petri dishes. Put the lids on and leave them to set overnight.



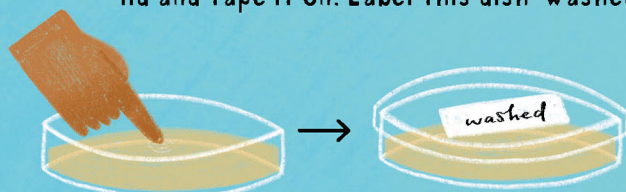
4

Remove the lid from one dish. Press a finger onto the jelly. Put back the lid and tape it on. Label the dish 'unwashed'.



5

Now wash your hands thoroughly. Take the lid off the other dish. Press a clean finger onto the jelly. Put back the lid and tape it on. Label this dish 'washed'.



6

Leave the dishes for a few days. You should see some blobs growing on the 'unwashed' dish - and nothing on the washed dish.

Without removing the lid, look at the blobs with a magnifying glass. Can you see different colours and textures? Those are different TYPES of bacteria.



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