

What makes my lunch old?

First you must define the question: What makes my lunch old?

- Perishable food gets spoiled over time and grows mould.
- This makes the lunch 'old' and inedible.
- Mould is a visible effect of food spoilage.

Ask related questions

- Under what conditions does mould grow?
- What helps mould grow?

Formulate a hypothesis based on research

1. Mould grows where there is moisture.
2. Mould grows in warm conditions.
3. Therefore, warm and damp conditions make the perishable part of my lunch 'old'.



The Experiment

Take several slices of bread and put them where they will experience different conditions. Remember to label each slice.

- One slice in a ziplock bag in a warm sunny place
- One slice in a ziplock bag in the dark
- One slice in a ziplock bag in the fridge
- One slice in the open on a plate in a warm sunny place
- One slice in the open on a plate in the dark
- One slice in the open in the fridge

Check for signs of mould each day. Once you see evidence of mould take a photograph each day until the mould can clearly be seen in the photograph.

Compare the mould growth in the differing conditions.

Have you seen other changes that have made your lunch go old and inedible more quickly?

What is your conclusion, based on the experiment's evidence and findings?
Are there conditions that can slow down the ageing of your lunch?