

UNIT 10 - DIGESTIVE SYSTEM

ACTIVITY - One Potato, Two Potato, Three Potato

Objective:

The student will understand that digestion is both mechanical and chemical.

Materials:

- Large potato
- Three jars with lids
- Knife
- Vinegar
- Shredder
- Water

Strategy:

Cut the potato in three portions. Put the first portion of the potato in the jar with a tablespoon of vinegar and a tablespoon of water. Place the lid on the jar. Next, cube the second part of the potato and follow the same procedure as with the first jar. Finally, shred the third part of the potato and put it into a jar with the vinegar. Make sure that the jar lids are secured.

During the lecture period have the students pass the potato jars around the classroom shaking the jars as they pass them to one another. After about 20 minutes collect the jars and observe the changes in the potato.

Discussion:

What do you see happened to the potato in jar #1, jar #2, jar #3?

Digestion is accomplished through the mechanical breakdown of the potato, (cutting it apart) and by chemical breakdown (acid) in put into the jar.