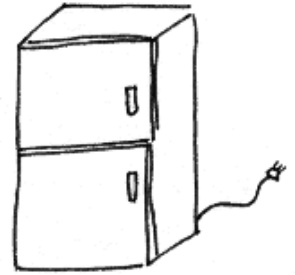


Suzy's World

Refrigeration - Why do we keep food in the refrigerator?

Fact

- A refrigerator keeps everything cool, at a controlled temperature.
- Some foods last longer or keep better flavour when they are kept cool so we refrigerate them.
- All food breaks down, rots and decays because of the action of bacteria or moulds.
- Refrigeration slows down that process by slowing down the rate at which bacteria and moulds grow.
- Some foods will decay faster than others. Dairy products have a limited life. Foods that have been chopped up decay faster than food in large chunks.



Do you know

- Ice was the first form of refrigeration and was used for thousands of years. People added salt to ice to lower the freezing point of the ice.
- The first refrigerators were made in England over 200 years ago.
- The temperature in your fridge should be around 4 degrees Celsius.
- There are millions of different kinds of bacteria and millions of different types of mould. Most of them are harmless but they make the food decay and look less attractive.

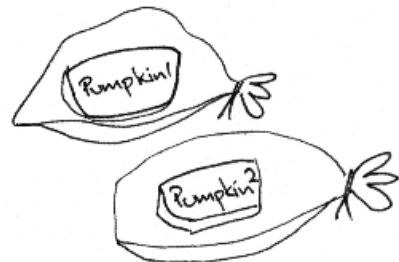
Experiments you can do

What you need:

Two clear plastic bags with twisty ties
Two pieces of pumpkin, the same size
Pen and Paper to record your findings

What you do:

Put a piece of pumpkin in each bag and close the bags with the twisty ties. Put one piece in the fridge and the other in a cupboard. Predict what will happen in each bag. Every afternoon when you get home from school look at the pieces of pumpkin and note down the changes and compare the differences. Do this for a week and you should notice a big difference! Were your predictions right? Can you explain your results?



When you have finished your experiment put both bags of pumpkin in the bin without opening them.

Other Investigations

Why do foods like pasta, chips and rice get kept in the cupboard and not in the fridge?
If your fridge broke down or there was no electricity how would you keep the food in your fridge fresh?

Jokes

What did the mayonnaise say to the refrigerator? Shut the door I'm dressing.
What do you get if you cross a fridge with a radio? Cool music!