Invisible Ink: SPOOKY!

Common household items will make this activity one to talk about! Let's work with pH indicators and chemical changes to make invisible ink.

Fun Facts/Information

- Turmeric is a spice that comes from the Curcuma Longa plant.

- Baking soda is also known as sodium bicarbonate and can be used in baking.

- The pH value of something tells us how acidic or basic it is.

- The baking soda and water solution is a base, when we add the turmeric and hand sanitizer solution, they react to each other.

- An indicator is a chemical that will change colors if it mixes with a base.

- The turmeric and hand sanitizer solution experiences a chemical change and changes into a darker color when touching the base mixture, so the turmeric and hand sanitizer solution is an indicator.

Materials

- 2 Pieces of Cardstock

- Gel Hand Sanitizer

- Sponge Brush

- Small Paintbrush

- 1 Tablespoon of Turmeric

- 1 Tablespoon of Baking soda

- 2 Dixie Cups

- Water

Procedure:

1. Prepare the Baking Soda Solution
   a. Fill one Dixie Cup halfway with water.
   b. Add 1 teaspoon of baking soda and stir with a paintbrush until mostly dissolved.

2. Write Your Secret Message
   a. Dip the paintbrush into the baking soda solution and use it to write a message or draw an image on one sheet of cardstock.
   b. The writing will be invisible, except for a slight wetness.

3. Repeat the Writing Process
   a. Use the same technique to write a different message or image on the second sheet of cardstock.

4. Prepare the Turmeric Mixture
   a. In the second Dixie Cup, add about 4 pumps of hand sanitizer.
   b. Mix in 1 teaspoon of turmeric. Be careful—this mixture can stain surfaces and clothing.
   c. Stir with the sponge brush until the turmeric is fully blended. The mixture should have a runny consistency.

5. Reveal Your Secret Message
   a. Once the secret message is dry, dip the sponge brush into the turmeric mixture.
   b. Paint over the dried message to reveal the hidden writing or image.