

Inquiry lab.

Discovery labs are used to guide students' experimentation. Provided with a real-world situation and problem stated in the form of a question, students develop a hypothesis, procedure, collect data, and draw conclusions based on their findings in order to provide a solution to the problem. For example, students might explore factors that influence growth of mold by developing an experiment that explores how a variable influences the growth rate of mold on bread. This correlates with 9–12 Content Standards A (Science as Inquiry), B (Life Science), and F (Science in Personal and Social Perspectives) (NRC 1996). After concluding this experiment and the postlab discussion on preventing mold growth on food in a house, extend the discussion to beneficial and harmful mold growth in the out-of-doors.

DISCOVERY LAB ON MOLD

SITUATION: You are tired of opening your cabinet and finding a moldy loaf of bread when you really are craving a peanut butter and jelly sandwich.

PROBLEM: What factors affect the growth rate of mold?

HYPOTHESIS:

MATERIALS:

PROCEDURE:

OBSERVATIONS:

CONCLUSION: