

# Fun with Science



## Clean Up Your Pennies



### Things you will need:

- Dull/dirty Copper coins
- Paper cup
- Vinegar
- Kitchen paper

### Instructions:

Put a penny into a cup and pour vinegar in until the penny is covered. Leave it there for 10 minutes. Remove the penny, rinse it and dry it off. Look at how shiny it has become – compare it to your other pennies.

### The science behind it:

The surface of copper coins reacts with oxygen in the air which makes them become dull and dirty looking over time. This is because when copper and oxygen combine they make copper oxides which are a very dark chemical. The acid in vinegar dissolves the copper oxides and so makes the coin look shiny again.