



Why Apples Turn Brown

This simple 5th grade science activity helps you learn the reason why apples exposed to the air turn brown.

You will need:

- An apple
- Lemon juice
- Tap water
- Shallow bowl
- Knife



Instructions:

- Slice the apple into three pieces.
- Fill the bowl with just enough water to cover a slice of apple completely.
- Place a slice into the bowl
- Coat another slice of apple with lemon juice
- Leave the third slice out in the open without doing anything to it.
- Wait for 20 minutes and observe what happens.

How does it happen?

The slice you submerged in water will not turn brown immediately because the water will protect it from the effects of oxygen. The lemon juice on the second slice binds with oxygen and keeps it away from the apple. The third slice is entirely unprotected and will therefore turn brown far more quickly than the others.