

Spit Test Information for the Teacher

Correlations to Arkansas Science Frameworks grades 5-8:

NS.1.5.1 Make accurate observations

NS.1.5.5 Communicate results and conclusions from scientific inquiry

NS.1.6.1 Verify accuracy of observations

NS.1.6.5 Communicate results and conclusions from scientific inquiry

LS.2.6.3 Investigate the functions of tissues

LS.2.6.4 Model and explain the functions of animal organs:

- heart
- lung
- kidneys
- eyes
- ears
- skin
- teeth

LS.2.6.7 Describe the relationship between organ function and the following needs of cells:

- oxygen
- food
- water
- waste removal

NS.1.7.1 Interpret evidence based on observations

LS.2.7.8 Investigate functions of human body systems

NS.1.7.5 Communicate results and conclusions from scientific inquiry

NS.1.8.1 Justify conclusions based on appropriate and unbiased observations

Internet resources:

Lessons and Background:

<http://science-education.nih.gov/supplements/nih2/oral-health/guide/lesson2.html>

<http://www.eduref.org/Virtual/Lessons/Science/Biology/BIO0024.html>

<http://www.oralb.com/learningcenter/teaching/lessonoverview.asp>

http://www.activityvillage.co.uk/fizzy_sherbet.htm

<http://www.coreknowledge.org/CK/resrcs/lessons/299digest.pdf#search=%22lessons%20saliva%22>

Interactive websites/video clips:

<http://yucky.kids.discovery.com/flash/body/yuckystuff/spit/js.index.html>

<http://www.mouthpower.org/>

http://www.baltimorefunguide.com/calendar/detailEvent.do;jsessionid=dx2np2twp2?date_month=8&date_year=2006&event_id=2767&date_day=27

Books:

Katz, Alan. Illustrated by Laurie Keller *Stinky Thinking: The Big Book of Gross Games and Brain Teasers*.

Do you find that you don't really care how long it takes a train to travel from New York City to Chicago? Now, if the question was how long it takes spit from a sneeze to travel from one city to the other, wouldn't that be a bit more exciting?

Get That Girl Out of the Boy's Locker Room. (Troll)

A novel about gender equality in which Michelle discovers how to walk, talk, and spit like a boy.

Cazet, Denys. *Never Spit on Your Shoes*.

The book leads to many great follow-up activities. The cover of the book is filled with speech bubbles. Even the title is a speech bubble. Teachers can point this out to the children as a technique for writing conversations, a technique students might want to practice in writers' workshop.

Dahl, Michael. *Do salamanders spit?* Grades 4-8

Schwartz, Alvin. *Cross Your Fingers, Spit In Your Hat: Superstitions And Other Beliefs*. 161 p. Superstitions about such topics as love and marriage, money, ailments, travel, the weather, and more.

Swanson, Diane. Illustrated by Diane Swanson. *Animals Eat the Weirdest Things*. A people's-eye-view of the strange and unusual eating habits found in the animal kingdom; children will be drawn to the disgusting realm of meals made of spit, vomit, cigarettes, skin, and dandruff, just to name a few. Swanson is not subtle; among the chapter headings are "Ooze, Vomit and Dung," "Blood, Skin, and Cast-Off Parts," "Rotting Flesh and Bones." Common and little-known facts burst forth; vampire bats suck blood, the hawfinch dines on cherry pits, puffins eat whale dung, and porcupines munch sweaty wood. The chapters are clearly organized topically, but a dearth of subheadings and a profusion of sidebars make for intimidating spreads. One creature per spread is singled out for illustration, so many animals may be mentioned e.g., the lammergeier, the Lapland longspurbut not fully identified. The author's meticulous research is evident here; despite the poor layout and arrangement of text, children will "eat up" the gross-me-out notions and digest good scientific information.

Branzei, Sylvia. Illustrated by Jack Keely. *Animal Grossology: The Science of Creatures Gross and Disgusting* (Grossology Series).

"Humans make about one liter of saliva a day. A sheep or goat, up to 15 liters per day. Coming in first by producing almost 200 liters of saliva daily; the cow." "If you place a hagfish in a bucket of seawater, this animal drips so much slime that a thick layer of mucus will float on the water after several hours." Just when you thought it was safe...Animal Grossology's Sylvia Branzei proves she still knows what fascinates and really disgusts kids of all ages. Sure, there's bird poop on the cover. Yeah, there's a lot of information inside that can function as an appetite suppressant. Fortunately, Branzei tosses into this icky concoction a heaping helping of real and memorable scientific facts.