



GIVE IT A PASTING

An investigation to get your teeth into, with D&T links as well as science

SETTING THE SCENE

In advance, ask the pupils to bring in toothpaste, toothpaste boxes and adverts. Ask the pupils what sort of things toothpaste needs to do (e.g. neutralize acids, make a lather to help with cleaning).

Once the pupils have worked out a criteria for good toothpaste, they can get into pairs and design an investigation to compare one brand against the other.

WHAT YOU NEED

- ◆ Toothpaste

WHAT TO DO

1. Check the ingredients on the packet. Test how much they lather – mix water and toothpaste in a test-tube then shakeup and down and finally measure the height of the foam.
2. Test the acidity of the toothpaste. Toothpaste helps to get rid of acids (in fruit juice, etc.) so it needs to be alkaline. To test this the pupils will need indicator paper and a key.
3. Each test should be done at least twice – once for each kind of toothpaste. To ensure the test is 'fair', the conditions for the first toothpaste test must be the same for the second.

