

Taste Buds

Background:

Tiny hairs on the tongue send messages to the brain about how something **tastes**, so you know if it's sweet, sour, bitter, or salty. The average person has about 10,000 **taste buds** and they're replaced every 2 weeks or so. But as a person ages, some of those **taste** cells don't get replaced.

Materials:

Salt water Sugar Water Soda Pickle Juice Coffee/Tea

Cotton Swabs

Activity:

1. Dip a cotton swab into the salt water.
2. Looking into the mirror, touch the different places on the tongue as shown in the diagram below.
3. Try to sense where on your tongue the salt tastes the strongest and write "SALT" in that spot/s.
4. Using a different swab each time, do steps 1, 2 & 3 for each of the liquids and write the name of the liquid on the spot/s where the taste is the strongest.
5. Do this experiment in 3 weeks and see if it changes.

Data:

