



Cleaning Coins

We have found a collection of artefacts on an archaeological dig.

We need to clean them in order to help us identify them, but we must be careful not to damage them.

We will test a variety of cleaners on coins, so as not to damage the artefacts.

Each group will be given:

- Small pots with a selection of substances (e.g.: ketchup, mustard, vinegar, water, milk, orange juice, etc.)
- A coin for each substance and cotton buds to apply the substance to the coin.



Each group must decide how they will apply the substance, e.g.: blob and leave, 20 rubs, apply to half only (to see how much each has changed, etc.).

Each group is to report their findings by ranking the substances and discuss their findings with their classmates.

Questions to support your thinking:

- How will you know which is the best cleaning substance?
- Which do you think is the best cleaner? Why?
- Which do you think is the worst at cleaning the coins? Why?
- How fair do you think the method was?
- How do you think we could be fairer in comparing the substances?