

CALIFORNIA STATE SCIENCE FAIR 2012 PROJECT SUMMARY

Name(s)

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Project Number

J0609

Project Title

Electro-Lyte It Up

Abstract

Objectives/Goals

To measure the amount of electrolytes in various drinks and investigate if sports drinks has more electrolytes than daily drinks.

Methods/Materials

Materials: 1 digital multimeter; 1 foot of copper wire, bare; 1 wire cutter; 2 alligator cords, 12 inches; 1 roll of masking tape and a pen; 7 plastic containers; 1 inch of a plastic tube; ½ cup Fruit Punch+Berry Gatorade; ½ cup of Fruit Punch Powerade; ½ cup of Juicy Juice Apple Juice; ½ cup of Minute Maid Lemonade; ½ cup of Tap Water; ½ cup of Deionized Water.

To Make the Conductor Sensor

1. Using wire cutters, cut two pieces of copper wire, about 6 inches long. 2. Cut the plastic tube into a 1 inch piece. 3. Wrap one piece of the wire around the tube near one end a few times, leaving about 2 inches of wire free. 4. Wrap the other piece of wire around the tube at the other end a few times, again, leaving 2 inches of wire free. There should be no contact between the 2 wires.

Testing the Drinks

1. Label the 6 containers with the drinks of your choice. Label the 7th with Deionized Water. 2. Turn the multimeter on to DCA 200 microamps. 3. To complete conductor sensor attach alligator cord to copper wires on plastic tube. 4. Now place the completed conductor sensor into chosen drink with alligator cords not touching 5. Record amount of electrolytes after 10 seconds of application 6. Dry conductor sensor after rinsing in Deionized Water 7. Repeat steps 4-6 for each drink 3 times

Results

Propel Zero Gatorade Apple Juice Powerade Lemonade Tap Water

Test 1 9.4 16.3 3.5 20.3 6.0 .2

Test 2 7.5 11.6 2.6 16.6 3.8 1

Test 3 7.5 11.1 2.1 12.7 2.2 .2

Average 8.13 13 2.73 16.53 4.0 .467

Numbers Refer to number of microamps

Conclusions/Discussion

Our hypothesis was correct. We proved sports drinks advertisements are correct because they can give you more electrolytes. Specifically, Powerade has the most electrolytes and tap water has the least.

Summary Statement

Measuring electrolytes in various drinks

Help Received

Father supervised experiments, Mother and sister helped with shopping and board.