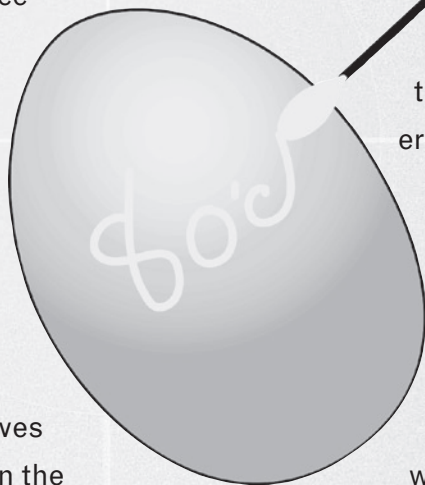


Make Your Own Secret Boiled Egg Message

Some agents during the war hid secret messages in boiled eggs! In this project you'll do this using two items that are available in your grocery store's spice aisle: alum and vinegar.

As you write on the egg shell with this mixture, you leave behind messages that can only be seen once you remove the shell! How is this possible? Well, the vinegar dissolves the calcium carbonate in the eggshell, allowing the alum to pass through the shell and discolor the egg white.

1 With an adult's help, hard boil a dozen eggs. Place the eggs in the water and bring water to a boil. Set your timer so that the eggs simmer for 12 minutes. Here's a tip: Add some salt to the water, as it helps make the eggs peel easier.



2 Have your mom or dad drain the hot water and rinse the eggs in cold water. Place them in a bowl or back in their carton, and put them in the refrigerator to cool.

3 In a small bowl, mix the white vinegar and alum together to form a paste.

4 Hold an egg in one hand by your thumb and forefinger while you write a message. Use the Q-tip like a pencil, dipping it into the paste.

5 Store the egg in the refrigerator overnight so the message will have time to seep through the shell and set. Peel the shell off the egg to read your secret message! You'll notice that some eggs are finicky, so this trick doesn't always work. Try a few and some will be successful!

supplies

- ✧ 12 hardboiled eggs
- ✧ ¼ teaspoon salt
- ✧ 2 tablespoons white vinegar
- ✧ 2 tablespoons alum
- ✧ Q-tips