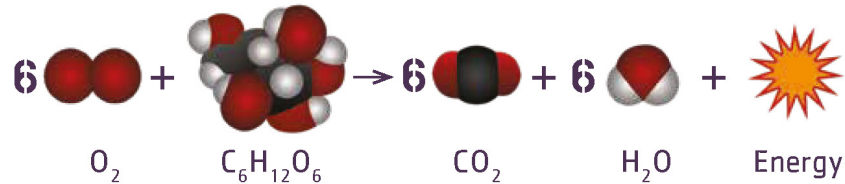


ROTTEN PEACHES AND RESPIRATION

The respiration reaction looks like this:



Your body uses the energy from respiration to grow and work and play.

You are not alone! Microorganisms, animals, fungi, and plants also break apart glucose and release energy through respiration.

The respiration reaction also happens when a plant dies.

Imagine a peach dropping from a tree onto the ground. Will it look the same after a day? A week? A month?



Almost immediately, mold, fungus, insects, and animals begin the work of breaking down the peach. It might take a long time, but the peach will rot, and its elements will be released into the ground. And through respiration, carbon dioxide will return to the atmosphere.



READ. QUESTION. THINK.

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WATCH IT ROT



1. Place the fruit in the yogurt container.
2. With the scissors, carefully cut a piece of plastic wrap large enough to cover the top of the yogurt container and to extend 5 cm over the edges.
3. Cover the top with the piece of plastic wrap and secure it with rubber bands.
4. Using the pencil, poke ten holes in the plastic wrap.
5. Place the container on a counter or table.
6. Observe daily for one month. Note changes to the size, shape, smell, color, and texture of the fruit. Do not taste the rotting fruit.

MATERIALS

1/4 of a peach, nectarine, or plum
Clean empty yogurt container
Plastic wrap
Scissors
Rubber bands
Sharp pencil



Record your notes here:



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