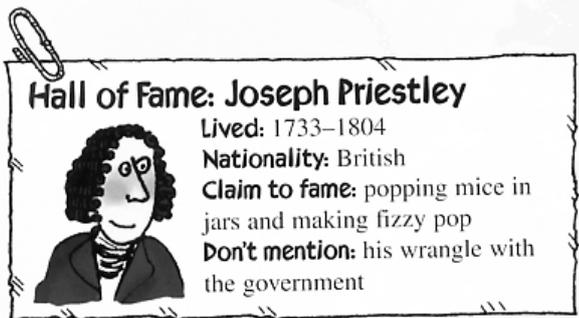


Joseph Priestley - literacy task



Joseph Priestley was useless at maths but could speak nine languages and made tonnes of important scientific discoveries. So many that his good friend Sir Humphry Davy, said:



Mice and Queasy

See if you can think like Joseph and explain the results of his famous experiments.

- ① In 1674, a scientist called John Mayow put a mouse in a jar with a candle. But the mouse fainted as the candle burnt out. (That's not mice!) Joe decided to find out why.
- ② So, in 1771 Joe burnt a candle inside a jar until the flame went out. Then he added a sprig of mint to the jar.
- ③ The plant stayed healthy. So Joe added a mouse. This time the mouse didn't faint.
- ④ Finally Joe put a lighted candle under the jar again. The candle burnt normally, the plant stayed healthy and the mouse didn't faint. Why?



Bet you never knew!

Joe invented fizzy drinks. He made a machine from a washing tub and a few wine glasses and bubbled carbon dioxide through water. The water tasted fizzy and you could flavour it with fruit juices. But he stored the gas in a pig's bladder and some people complained that the drink had a "piggy" flavour.



Trouble and squeak

Joe carried on popping mice into jars to test all sorts of different gases – mostly without causing the resourceful rodents too much harm – until, in 1791, he fell out with the government of the time. His political enemies sent a mob to smash his lab and burn his house so, in 1794, the shaken scientist did a runner to the USA.

Questions

- ① What did the mint add to the jar?
- ② Explain how the mouse was able to stay alive and not faint when the mint leaf was added.
- ③ Would scientists be allowed to complete this experiment now? Explain your answer.
- ④ A lot of scientific discoveries were made through the use of animal testing. Research around the subject and decide if you agree or not and why.