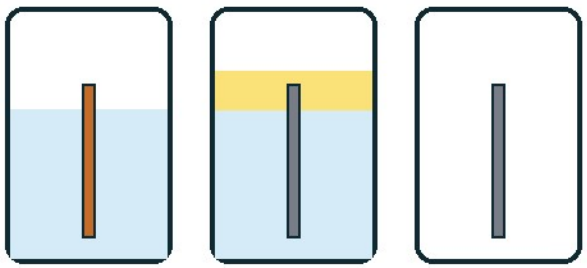
Why Iron Rusts

A slow reaction with air and water



YOU NEED

- 3 clear jars
- 3 plain iron nails
- water
- cooking oil
- a dry paper towel

TRY IT

1. Jar 1: put a nail in water, half covered, so air can reach it.
2. Jar 2: put a nail in water, then pour a layer of oil on top.
3. Jar 3: put a nail in with a dry paper towel and close the lid.
4. Check each day for a week and write down what you see.

WHAT IS HAPPENING

Iron slowly joins with oxygen when water is present, making orange-brown rust. The oil blocks air and the dry jar has no water, so those nails stay shiny much longer.

SAFETY FIRST

Use new nails and handle them carefully. Wash your hands after touching rusty nails. Keep the jars out of reach of small children.

Never mix cleaning products, and never taste experiments.

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