PENNY POLISHER

How can we make dirty coins clean again?

YOU WILL NEED

- Copper coins
- Small bowls
- A range of liquids (e.g. cola, water, lemon juice, ketchup, baking soda)

HOW TO DO IT

1) Pour each liquid into a separate bowl and label them.
2) Add a dirty penny to each bowl.
3) Leave for 10mins and then remove. What do you notice?
4) Leave the coins in their bowls overnight and observe them again the next day. Discuss your findings.

WHAT IS HAPPENING?

Pennies are made of a shiny metal called copper. Over time, the copper reacts with the oxygen in the air to form copper oxide, turning the copper dull.

When we add acidic liquids to the pennies, the acid dissolves the copper oxide, making them shiny again.

INVESTIGATE

What happens if we try the same experiment with silver coins?

How and why is copper used in architecture?

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