

# BREEDING BACTERIA

PRIMARY  
FUNDRAISING  
HUB



PROFESSOR PETE'S intro...

## Background Information:

Bacteria are a fascinating type of microorganism that play a large role in our lives whether we like it or not. Try growing your own sample of bacteria while monitoring how it reproduces in a short space of time. Compare your original sample with others and get proof that bacteria truly are everywhere!



## Step 1: Collect your equipment...

- 1x petrie dish (or clear container) of agar
- 3 x cotton buds
- Some old newspaper (to wrap petrie dish when disposing)

## Step 2:

- Prepare your petrie dish of agar.
- Using your cotton bud, swab a certain area of your classroom (i.e. collect a sample by rubbing the cotton bud on a surface of your choice).
- Rub the swab over the agar with a few gentle strokes before putting the lid back on and sealing the petrie dish.

## Step 3:

- Allow the dish to sit in a warm area for 2 or 3 days.
- Check the growth of the bacteria each day by making an observational drawing and describing the changes.
- Try repeating the process with a new petrie dish and swab from under your fingernails.

## Step 4:

- Dispose of the bacteria by wrapping up the petrie dish in old newspaper and placing in the rubbish (don't open the lid).

## PROFESSOR PETE SAYS...

The agar plate and warm conditions provide the ideal place for bacteria to grow. The microorganisms on the plate will grow into individual colonies, each a clone of the original. The bacteria you obtained with the cotton bud grows steadily, becoming visible with the naked eye in a relatively short time. Different samples produce different results.

