

CWSF 2015 - Fredericton, New Brunswick



Paige Dunham

Don't Soak Up the Sun

Challenge: Discovery

Category: Junior

Region: Chinook Country

City: Calgary, AB

School: Red Deer Lake School

Abstract: A project to compare whether a sunscreen made with natural ingredients would provide the SPF protection of a chemical sunscreen against ultraviolet radiation from the sun. Two natural sunscreens were tested against a Banana Boat SPF 15 sunscreen and a Banana Boat SPF 30 sunscreen using ultraviolet detecting beads. The results of the experiment indicated natural sunscreens to be more effective in blocking UV radiation.

Biography

I love to be outside in the sunshine, but I know that the sun's UV radiation can cause damage. I decided to test natural sunscreens against chemical sunscreens after my grandfather was diagnosed with several basal cell carcinomas. I wanted to know if there was a safer natural way to protect my skin from harmful UV rays. I found that the natural sunscreen I tested was effective at blocking UV rays but I didn't love the smell of it. In my next experiment I would like to experiment with the different ingredients to design a product that I could use (and love) instead of the chemical sunscreens available on the market. I am in Grade 7 and live in Calgary. I have 2 older sisters and a younger brother. I love to play basketball, water ski, snow ski, ride bikes and swim. My advice to anyone thinking about doing a project is find something that you are really interested in!