

Pancakes with a Side of Science

Pancakes aren't just for eating – they're perfect for science too! In *The Perfect Pancake Flip*, you'll explore forces and movement by testing how a pancake flips and lands. In the *Pancake Absorbency Test*, you'll investigate which pancake materials soak up the most 'syrup' and why. Finally, in *The Slippery Pancake Investigation*, you'll find out how different surfaces affect how far a pancake can slide. Get ready to predict, test, and discover how pancakes can help us learn about science!

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The Perfect Pancake Flip

1. Make a 'pancake': cut a circle from card (cereal box card is perfect). Optional: colour one side so you can see it flip.
2. Stand in a clear space. Place the pancake on your hand or a tray and flick it up gently.
3. Watch what happens: does it spin? how many turns? does it land the same way up?
4. Try 3-5 flips changing only one thing each time (flip harder/softer, change the angle, start higher/lower).
5. Keep a quick record: what you changed + what happened.

Materials: card/paper, scissors, colouring pen, tray or ruler (optional), paper to record.

Pancake Absorbency Test

1. Pick 4-6 materials (e.g., tissue, kitchen roll, printer paper, newspaper, thin card).
2. Cut the same-size pancake circle from each material and label them.
3. Place them on a tray/plate (or on top of a sheet of kitchen roll).
4. Using a dropper/teaspoon, add the same amount of water to each (e.g., 10 drops).
5. After 30 seconds, check which absorbed most (least puddle left / biggest wet patch) and note your results.

Materials: different papers, scissors, tray/plate, water, dropper/teaspoon, timer (optional), labels/pen.

The Slippery Pancake Investigation

1. Make a card pancake (or reuse one from the flip task).
2. Build a ramp: use books to make a gentle slope, or a clipboard.
3. Choose 3-5 surfaces to test at the bottom (table, paper, fabric, foil, sandpaper).
4. Start the pancake from the same spot on the ramp each time and let it slide (don't push).
5. Measure how far it travels with a ruler or tape measure, repeat 3 times per surface, then compare.

Materials: card pancake, books/clipboard ramp, different surfaces, ruler/tape measure, pen/paper.