



Instructor: Beth Ann Prudente (2003 Science Teacher Workshop participant)

School District: South Amboy

Lesson Title: Food Irradiation: Supermarket Sweep

Grade: 4

Overview: Practicality of Irradiated Food, Pro's and Con's

Objectives:

1. Students will be able to research the given topic using Library/Computer time.
2. Students will be able to define what food irradiation is.
3. Students will be able to discuss why food should be irradiated.
4. Students will be able to identify food that could be irradiated or are irradiated and the benefits to the population.
5. Students will be able to search for irradiated foods or any foods that could be irradiated in supermarkets, local stores, or supermarket flyers.

Materials:

- Science journals
- web sites
- supermarkets
- local stores
- supermarket
- flyers
- poster board
- glue
- crayons
- scissors, etc.

Activity:

1. Students will research the topic and compete short paper answering the following questions.
 - What is food irradiation?
 - How does food irradiation work?
 - How do I know that food is irradiated?
 - Are irradiated foods available now?
2. Students will observe changes to strawberries, potatoes, and grains over a period of time and record changes in freshness, etc. in some type of observation chart.
3. Students will visit supermarkets and stores to look for any signs of irradiated food (FDA logo) and various irradiated food possibilities.
4. Students will prepare posters showing the irradiated food logo and various irradiated foods or food possibilities that would be presented in an oral presentation to the

entire group. This presentation would also include material presented in the individual's research paper.

Resources:

- What Foods Can Be Radiated? <http://ccr.ucdavis.edu/irr/whatla.shtm/>
- Are Irradiated Foods in the Supermarket? <http://ccr.ucdavis.edu/irr/safe5.shtml>
- Why Irradiate Food? <http://www.fda.gov/opacom/catalog/irradbro.html>
- Food Irradiation: A Safe Measure. <http://www.fda.gov/opacom/catalog/irradbro.html>
- Ten Most Common Asked Questions About Food Irradiation., Food Fact Safety Sheet. <http://www.physics.isu.edu/radinf/food.ttm>
- Are Irradiated Foods Labeled? <http://ccr.ucdavis.edu/irr/safe5.shtm>