

Classroom Activity

10 Big Question: Where will the nanoscience revolution take us?*



Chewing the Cud:

Digestion requires multiple steps to get what you need from your food. The first step is chewing, and cattle chew things twice ("chewing the cud") to make sure they get all the goodness they can from their food.

Things you need:

- Freezer bag
- Thin tubing or long straw
- Rubber bands
- Saos or other dry biscuits
- Water

What you do:

Put one end of the tube or straw into the plastic bag and secure it tightly with the rubber band. Add a few teaspoons of water to the bag through the straw. The object is to get the crackers down the "oesophagus" (tubing or straw) and into the "stomach" (plastic bag) where the food must be turned into "mush" before it can leave and go onto the next stage. Only hands and water can be used to aid in the "digestion".

This classroom activity was suggested by Rachel Crees, School of Chemistry & Physics, University of Adelaide.

* To find out more about the 10 Big Questions, go to:

<http://www.sciences.adelaide.edu.au/learning-teaching/10bq/>

Further Information

Ph: (08) 8313 5673

Fax: (08) 8313 4386

Email: faculty.sciences@adelaide.edu.au

Web: www.sciences.adelaide.edu.au