

activities



Starch

A What do these things have in common?

Paper	Food sweeteners
Ice cream	Cardboard boxes
Stamps	Baby foods
Envelopes	Medicine tablets

Give up?
They all have something to do with starch.
Find out how starch is used for each of the above products.

A Introducing the NEW electric car of tomorrow!
The car developed by Chrysler Corporation, United States, runs on corn-based ethanol.
This is how it works. A reformer converts the ethanol to hydrogen and oxygen using a platinum catalyst. The chemical reaction in the fuel cell produces electricity to power the car's motor. By the year 2006 you could have one of these cars.
But just think how difficult it will be to get corn-based ethanol in New Zealand!
Could a wheat-based ethanol-electric car be designed in New Zealand?
Research this possibility. How well will this type of car be accepted by New Zealanders?
A car that runs on ethanol is 50% more fuel efficient than conventional internal-combustion engines and it virtually eliminates tail pipe pollution. Wow! At last a clean and environmentally friendly fuel for all to use.
Here are some key words to help you on your research... Starch, Ethanol, Fermentation, Distillation, Dehydration, Enzymatic saccharification, Fermentable sugars, Glucoamylases, Elevation temperatures.

A Visit a brewery that makes wheat beer
Describe the stages needed to turn wheat into malt and eventually into beer
Your description of each stage should include words from the following list...

Starch	Glucose molecules	amylose and amylopectin starches
Enzymes	Diastase (alpha amylase)	amylase (beta amylase)
Fermentable sugar	Maltose	Glucose
Maltobiose	Alcohol	Polysaccharides (dextrins)
Body and sweetness	Saccharomyces yeast	Aerated wort
Oxygen	Anaerobic fermentation	Enzymatic action
Simple sugar molecules	Primary by-products	Ethanol (ethyl alcohol)
Carbon dioxide	Aroma and taste	pH of wort drops
Bacteria	Flocculation	Conditioning tanks
Aging process		

Q Why are complex carbohydrates important?

A List the differences between simple and complex carbohydrates.

A In a group of 3 or 4, list foods which contain complex carbohydrates. To find information to help you, read 'Nutritional aspects of bread - I and II' and 'Nutritional aspects of bread and wheat- III'.

A Compare the ingredient lists and nutritional labels to evaluate a variety of breads and grain products to determine if they are high in simple or complex carbohydrates. Display your information on a table like this...

Product	Simple Carbohydrates	Complex Carbohydrates	Notes
Donuts	✓	✓	The simple carbohydrates are the jam and sugar added
Cornflakes		✓	I would tick the simple carbohydrate box if sugar was sprinkled over the cornflakes

A Take a dessertspoon of flour and mix it with five dessertspoons of water in a saucepan. Bring it slowly to the boil while you stir it. After it has boiled for 3 or 4 minutes, allow it to cool. Note any changes while you were cooking the mixture. How does the final product compare with what you started with?

A If you have access to a microscope, examine raw and cooked starch. Can you spot the differences and similarities?

A Look at some flour under a microscope and draw what you see. Do the same with some potato juice. Compare your drawings. What similarities and differences did you see?

