

# NATURE CRAFT

## GOLDENROD PAPER

Goldenrod paper is yellow in color and, similar to a litmus test, it changes color when it comes in contact with acidic or basic solutions. You can buy goldenrod paper in a store, but you can also make your own using a fairly common spice, turmeric.

Turmeric is a natural pH indicator and, when it's used to make goldenrod paper, it can lead to some fun experiments. When goldenrod paper comes in contact with basic solutions, its yellow color will turn red. Once turned, when the paper comes in contact with acidic solutions, the red paper will turn back to yellow. Solutions that do not turn the color of either paper are considered neutral. Goldenrod paper is a fun way to illustrate the concept of pH to kids!



There are many chemistry experiments you can conduct with goldenrod paper! You can dip your hand into a shallow container of a baking soda solution and press it against the paper, this will leave a blood-red handprint. You can also write a "secret" message on the paper with paraffin or candle wax and then spray or wipe the paper with a basic solution to reveal the invisible message. Take it a step further and you can test different household products to classify them as acidic, basic, or neutral. Common household items could be: distilled water, window cleaner, lemon juice, milk, orange juice, vinegar, and baking soda solution.

### MAKE YOUR OWN GOLDENROD PAPER

#### MATERIALS

turmeric, boiling water, paper, large pan, tongs, towels

#### DIRECTIONS

1. Mix 4 tbsp. of turmeric with 2 cups of water
2. Bring the liquid to a boil in a large pan
3. Soak the paper in the hot liquid and remove it using tongs
4. Place the paper on a towel to dry
5. Conduct pH chemistry experiments