

## Extension Activity Disappearing Penny



Try this experiment with a US penny made after 1982. These coins have a center made of zinc, a silvery metal that reacts with vinegar and salt.

## **Materials Needed:**

- Pennies minted after 1982
- Sandpaper
- Salt
- Vinegar
- A clear container



## **Instructions:**

- 1. Rub the penny's edge with sandpaper until you see silvery zinc. Do the same on the other side of the penny.
- 2. Mix  $1-\frac{1}{2}$  tablespoons of salt and  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup of vinegar in a clear container.
- 3. Drop in the penny and watch!

## **Discussion:**

What do you notice? Leave the penny in the mixture overnight.

In our experiment, the center of the penny dissolved leaving behind a thin shell of copper. What happened in your experiment?

