

# **Saturday STEAM: National Pickle Day!**



# Pickle Facts

- **Each year in the United States, 5,200,000 pounds of pickles are consumed. While pickles can be high in sodium, they are a good source of vitamin K. In moderation, they make a great snack.**
- **Food vendors sometimes serve pickles on a stick for fairs or carnivals. They are known as stick pickles.**
- **A rising trend in the United States is deep-fried pickles. The pickle is wrapped in dough or dipped in breading and deep-fried.**
- **The popularity of the pickle dates back thousands of years to 2030 B.C. At that time, traders imported cucumbers from India to the Tigris Valley. Here the people first preserved and ate the cucumbers as pickles.**
- **Cleopatra attributed her good looks to her diet of pickles.**
- **Even Julius Caesar craved the benefits of pickles. He believed pickles lent physical and spiritual strength and gave them to his troops.**

- **Americans consume about 9 pounds of pickles per person every year. The most popular type remains kosher dill, thanks to the large numbers of Eastern European Jews who emigrated to the United States and New York City in the late 19th century.**
- **Shakespeare used it to refer to finding oneself in a difficult position in The Tempest. In the 1611 play, Alonso asks Trinculo, “How camest thou in this pickle?” to which Trinculo responds, “I have been in such a pickle since I saw you last that, I fear me, will never out of my bones: I shall not fear fly-blowing.”**
- **Companies that produce pickles on a mass scale ferment their cucumbers in giant outdoor pots in a salt brine. Yes, that means anything can get in there, including bird droppings and bugs, but the sun’s UV and infrared rays help prevent yeast and mold growth.**

# **Glowing Pickle Experiment**

## **Supplies:**

- **small extension cord that houses three plugs,**
- **a power strip (with an off/on switch),**
- **a pickle.**

**Cut off the end of the small extension cord and throw away the piece with the three different plug ends. Take the same end and split it. Use a wire cutter to pull off the insulator (special coating) so that the conductor (wire) is exposed.**

**Next, plug in the power strip and switched it to the off position. Then, push one wire into each end of the pickle. I also discovered that the farther in the wire is inserted, the better your glow length across the pickle will be. However, you do not want the wires touching one another from one end to the other. Some of the conductor or plastic coating can go inside the pickle. Finally, plug in the extension cord (that is plugged into the pickle) into the power strip. Turn off the lights. Flip the switch on the power strip and watch the pickle glow!!!**

**Source:** <https://theowlteacher.com/electricity-pickles/>