The Mini-Greenhouse Effect Experiment

Materials

- Thermometer
- Large bowl
- Dark cloth or dark paper
- Paper cup
- Plastic food wrap
- Outdoor access on a warm, sunny day

Method

1. Line the inside of a large bowl with dark cloth or dark paper.
2. Place the bowl outside in the sun and put a paper cup upside down inside the bowl.
3. Lay a thermometer across the top of the cup to measure the temperature inside the bowl.
4. Leave the bowl in the sun for 10 minutes.
5. Measure and record the temperature inside.
6. Cover the bowl with a sheet of clear plastic wrap.
7. Leave the bowl in the sun for another 10 minutes.
8. Measure and record the temperature inside the bowl under the plastic wrap (you should be able to read the temperature through the plastic).

Results

What was the temperature inside the bowl after 10 minutes? _____

What was the temperature inside the bowl after 20 minutes with the plastic wrap? _____

Reflection

What does the bowl represent in this experiment? _____

What does the plastic wrap represent? _____

Why do you think the temperature inside the bowl changed after you added the plastic wrap and how does this demonstrate global warming?

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