

Test Your Family for the Ability to Taste Bitterness

You Will Need

- Family members to test, including yourself
- Hand wipes
- PTC Paper
(available from many internet retailers and some big-box stores)
- Kleenex
- A mint or piece of hard candy for each person being tested

Directions

1. Clean your hands with the hand wipe.
2. Place the entire strip of PTC-saturated paper in your mouth. Wait 5-10 seconds... then carefully spit the paper into the tissue provided for you.
3. Use the mint/hard candy if the PTC taste is really horrible.
4. Make a note on your trait survey whether or not you tasted the PTC (you'll know!)
5. Find out who else in your family can taste PTC. Note on each person's trait survey whether they can taste PTC or not.
6. If anyone tastes the PTC paper as bitter, make sure to give them a piece of candy so they can get rid of the taste.
7. After you have tested as many family members as you can, see if it is clear or not whether people have dominant or recessive genes for this characteristic, and from which parents the genes came based on which people can taste PTC and which can't. Sometimes it is easy to tell and sometimes it isn't. The complexity is what makes genetics so fascinating!