

**Context:** Gingerbread man provocation

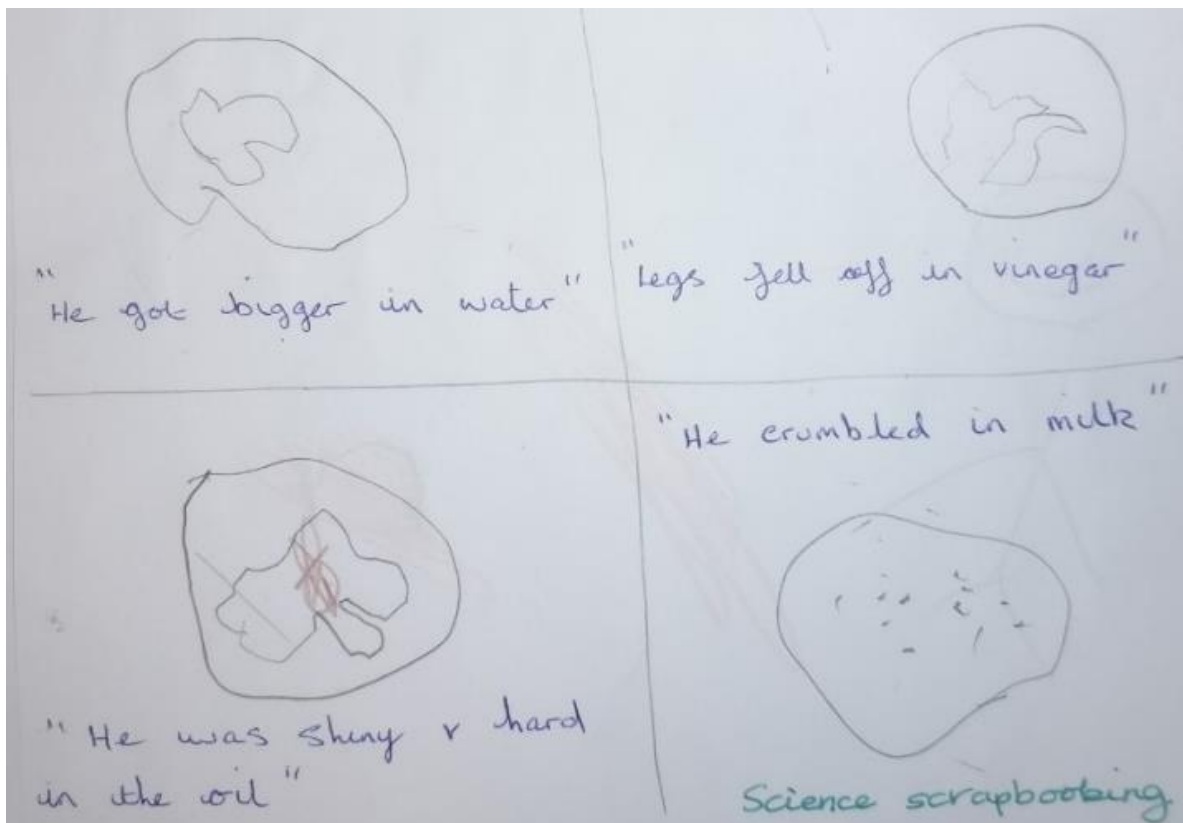
Reception  
Age 4-5

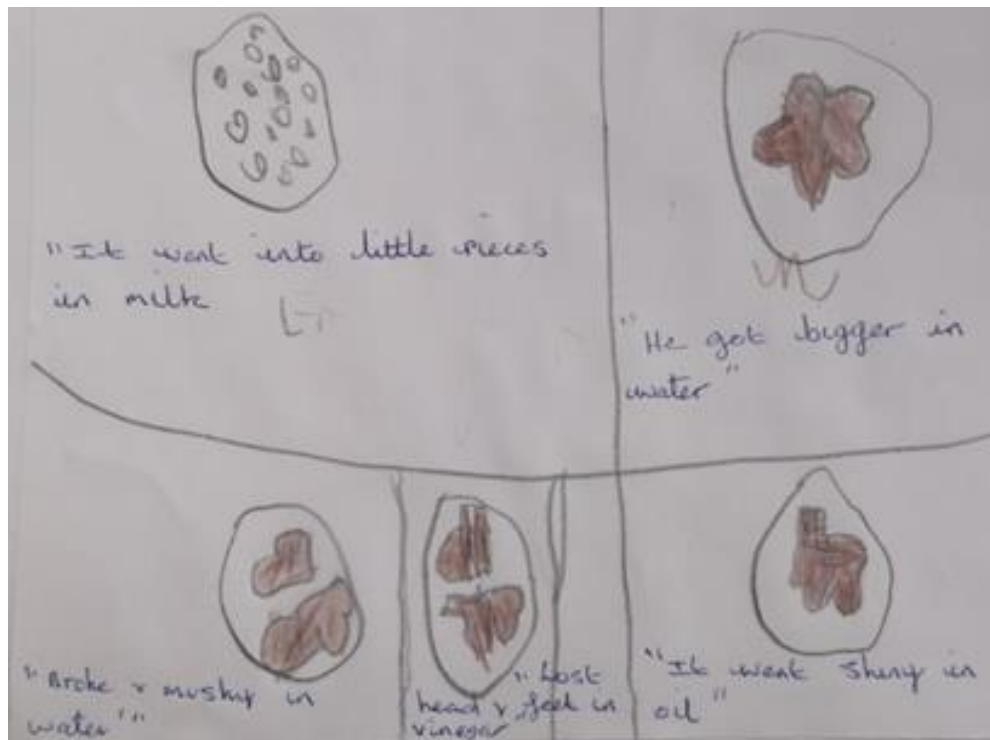
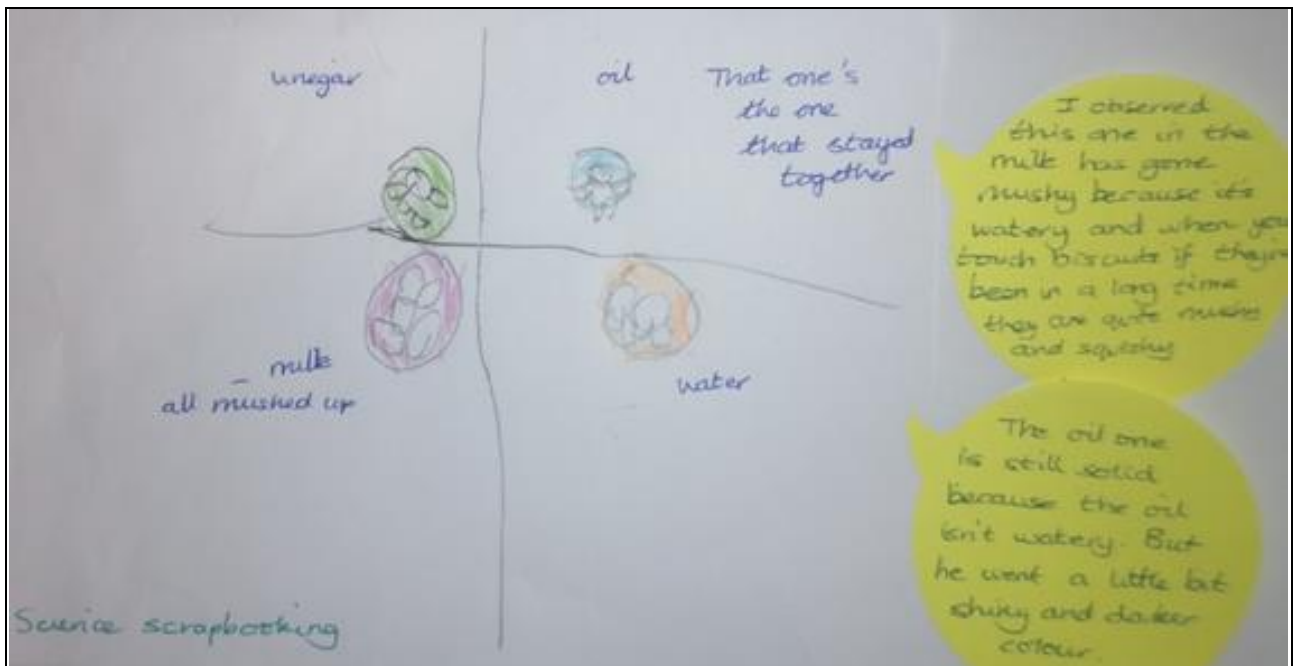
**Title:** Observing biscuits in different liquids

**Adult-led focus on observation**

Some children had dipped biscuits in drinks before and predicted that they might go soggy and fall apart. This led on to exploring biscuits in different liquids. The children were shown 4 different liquids in bowls (water, milk, vinegar and oil) and were encouraged to talk about and smell them. To make links to previous experience, they talked in pairs to **predict** what might happen when a gingerbread man biscuit was placed in each liquid.

The children **observed** what happened to each biscuit initially and then again after 1 hour and talked about what they noticed when they tried to lift each biscuit out of the bowl. The teacher encouraged the children to explain their observations verbally (which were scribed for them) and to represent their observations through drawings.





Later, the teacher encouraged pupils to reflect on what they had noticed, asking if they were surprised by what they observed. The children said that they thought the gingerbread man in oil would have gone soggy and broken to pieces too and wondered why he 'stayed hard'. Some children were also surprised that the gingerbread man in water had 'grown bigger' and wanted to find out why.

**Learning outcome (Birth to 5, The World):**

**Range 6:** Looks closely at similarities, differences, patterns and change.

Example from Briar Hill Infant School, Warwickshire