

Materials Needed:

- Large clear bowl or container
- Water
- Sand or fine dirt (about 1/4 cup)
- Red food coloring (a few drops)
- A kitchen strainer or sieve
- A clear cup or jar
- Spoon for stirring

Body's Super Cleaners!

Hey there, Super Scientist! Have you ever thought about what happens to all the stuff your body doesn't need after it uses the good parts from your food and drinks? Just like when you clean your room and have trash to take out, your body has waste it needs to get rid of too! The system that does this important job is called the **Excretory System**. Its main job is to clean your blood and remove waste as urine (pee).

The Amazing Kidney Filters!

The superstars of the excretory system are your **kidneys**! You have two of them, shaped like beans. Think of your kidneys as super-smart filters. Blood constantly flows through them, and the kidneys pull out the waste products (like leftover salts and a substance called urea) and extra water your body doesn't need right now. The useful stuff stays in the blood!

Let's Try an Analogy: The Super Strainer!

An analogy is when we compare something we don't know much about to something we do know. Let's compare the kidneys to a kitchen strainer!

Activity: Filter Fun!

1. Fill the large bowl about halfway with water. This water represents the blood flowing in your body.
2. Add the sand/dirt to the water. This represents the waste products in the blood.
3. Add a few drops of red food coloring. This just helps us pretend it's blood!
4. Stir it all up gently. See how the 'waste' (sand/dirt) is mixed in the 'blood' (water)?
5. Now, hold the strainer over the clear cup or jar.
6. Carefully pour the mixture from the bowl through the strainer into the cup.
7. Observe! What stayed in the strainer? (The sand/dirt - the 'waste'!)
8. What went through into the cup? (The colored water - the 'cleaned blood', although in our bodies, the clean blood stays in vessels and the waste water goes to the bladder.)

What Happens Next?

In our bodies, the kidneys work like that strainer, filtering out the waste. This waste, mixed with extra water, becomes urine. The urine then travels down little tubes to be stored in your **bladder**, which is like a stretchy storage bag. When the bladder gets full, your brain gets a signal that it's time to go to the bathroom and empty it out!

So, What Did We Learn?

The excretory system, especially the kidneys, acts like a cleaning crew for your blood, filtering out waste. The kidneys are like strainers, catching the bad stuff and letting the good stuff (clean blood) pass through. This waste becomes urine, which is stored in the bladder until you release it. Pretty

cool how your body keeps itself clean on the inside!