

# Microbe Magic Experiments

<http://microbemagic.ucc.ie>

## Healthy living – How to test for starch!

### What you will need

Greaseproof paper

Tincture of iodine (you can find this in some first aid kits or your chemist / pharmacy)

Variety of food cut into slices e.g. potato, banana, tomato, apple, bread, rice, cheese, teaspoon of sugar, teaspoon of salt.....whatever you like!

Paper

Pencil

### What to do:

- Place the foods you have chosen to test on the greaseproof paper (remember to leave lots of space between each sample).
- Place a drop of iodine onto each food.
  - **Important:** Drop the iodine onto the food. Do not touch the food with the tip of the iodine dropper. If the iodine dropper picks up a little of a starchy food from one sample, it can transfer to the next sample and indicate the presence of starch, even if there is none! This would be a *false positive* result, due to contamination.
- In the presence of starch, iodine will turn the food a purple colour.
- Take note of the types of food that contain starch and those that do not!