

MAKE: DIY LAVA LAMP

A MONTH OF HOLIDAY IDEAS

Make a lava lamp using easy to find kitchen ingredients in this simple science activity.



WHAT YOU NEED: Clear drinking glass, water, vegetable oil, liquid food colouring, table salt, teaspoon.



STEP 1: Fill your glass about 2/3 of the way with water.

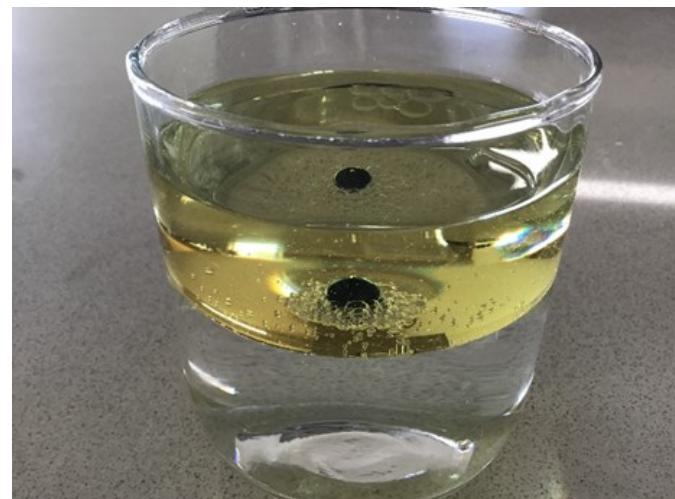


STEP 2: Pour vegetable oil into your cup to create a 2cm layer on top of the water.



What happens to the oil after you pour it into the glass?

Why do you think this happens?



STEP 3: Add one drop of food colouring to the cup.



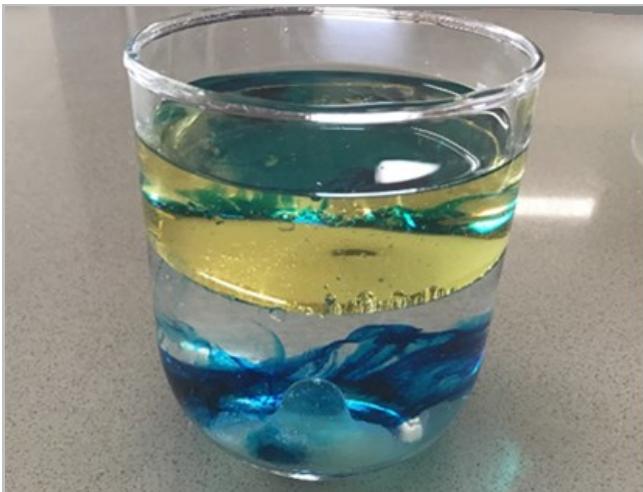
What happens to the drop of food colouring?

Why do you think this happens?

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STEP 4: Sprinkle salt into your cup and watch what happens.

 **Does the mixture change?**
What happens to the food colouring?
What happens to the oil?



STEP 5: Continue adding more salt and observe.

 **What happens to the mixture?**
Why does this happen?

WHAT'S THE SCIENCE?

In the beginning of the experiment, the oil settles above the water because it is less dense. When you add salt to the cup, the salt sinks to the bottom because it's heavier than the other two liquids. The salt carries a blob of oil with it. As the salt dissolves in the water, it releases the oil which floats back up to the top.

WHAT IS DENSITY?

Density is a word we use to describe how much space an object takes up (volume) in relation to the amount of matter in that object (mass). If an object is heavy and compact, it has a high density.

This 3-part series is a great introduction to the wonderful world of science:

- What is Science?
- Using the Scientific Method.
- Making Observations.

Click on the image and enter your library card number and PIN to watch.



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