

5 minute experiments for home

These are a few quick and easy experiments you can do at home. We would love to see how you get on, so if you could send in some photos of your experiment that would be great. You don't have to do all the experiments, but if you could have a go at 1 or 2 that would be lovely. GOOD LUCK!

The Curriculum Team

Quick and Easy lava lamp:

What you need:

Clear plastic bottle, Water, Food colouring (any colour), Vegetable oil and salt.

Step 1:

Remove the bottle top and pour water into the bottle until it is almost full! Sprinkle in a few drops of food colouring.

Add three to five tablespoons of vegetable oil.

Step 2:

Sprinkle on salt until the oil bubbles start to sink, then watch them bob back upwards again, just like a real lava lamp.

Rainbow rain:

What you need:

A large jar or clear jug, water, white shaving foam, drinking glasses, food colouring (a variety of colours) and an eyedropper (optional).

Step 1:

Fill the jar two-thirds full with water. Squirt shaving foam on top of the water, so it looks like a cloud.

Step 2:

In the drinking glasses, mix up some more water and different colours of food colouring.

Step 3:

Slowly and carefully pour (or, better still, use an eyedropper to drip) the coloured water onto the foam.

Step 4:

The shaving foam fills up until it can't hold the coloured water any longer, then let it fall like rain into the water below.

Bending water:

What you need:

A plastic comb, kitchen tap and a hairy head.

Step 1:

Comb your hair ten to twenty times.

Step 2:

Turn on the tap and adjust until the flow is as thin as possible without spluttering.

Step 3:

Hold the comb parallel with the flowing water and slowly move it closer. The water should curve towards it, as if by magic.

Speedboat:

What you need:

A piece of thin card, a clean plastic bowl or basin, water and washing up liquid.

Step 1:

Cut a boat shape out of your card, small enough so it has plenty of room in the bowl or basin.

Step 2:

Carefully, lay the shape down on top of the water so it lays flat.

Step 3:

Place a blob of washing up liquid on your finger. Touch the water behind the boat, then watch it ZOOM across to the other side of the bowl.

Underwater Volcano

What you need:

(ADULT), String, a small bottle, a large jug, cold water, hot water and food colouring (red is best).

Step 1:

Take a piece of string and tie both ends round the neck of your bottle to make a looped handle. This should be long enough to lower your bottle all the way to the bottom of the jug (but don't do that yet).

Step 2:

Pour cold water into the jug until it is deep enough to completely submerge the bottle, with room left over.

Step 3:

Carefully pour hot water into the bottle. Add enough food colouring so the water turns a vibrant shade of your chosen colour.

Step 4:

Keeping the top of the bottle, use the string to lower the bottle into the jug until it rests on the bottom. Your coloured water will slowly erupt from the top of the bottle, just like underwater volcanos would.