



Make a Lava Lamp

1. Fill the bottle most of the way with vegetable oil.
2. Fill the rest of the flask with water.
3. Add a few drops of food colouring; your choice of colour.
4. Break the tablet in half and drop them in the flask one at a time.
5. Watch your **lava lamp** erupt into activity!
6. To make your lava lamp look super impressive, shine a source of light under it (eg a torch, mobile phone light) to see the colours really glow.

You will need:

- Veg Oil
- water
- Food colouring
- Clear jars or clear plastic bottles
- Berocca or vitamin C tablets (Antacid tablets)

The science behind it:

The oil floats on top of the water because it is less dense or lighter than water. The food colouring has the same density as the water so it sinks through the oil and mixes with the water. When you add the tablet, it sinks to the bottom then starts to dissolve. As it dissolves it makes gas, carbon dioxide.

Questions to ask your children:

What is the same and what is different between the oil, water and food colouring?

Why does the oil and water separate?

Why does the tablet fizz when put in water?

What other materials could we put in the lava lamp and why?

Maths link: the experiment requires 1 quarter water and 3 quarter oil. Ask your children to figure out how much that is. Go deeper and get them to measure in ml before they pour it in!

Google DIY Lava lamps for some online demonstrations!

Upload photos of your child's lava lamp and their thoughts to the Mayflower website, under the parents tab and family science. Or use this link:

www.mayflower.towerhamlets.sch.uk/parents/family-science