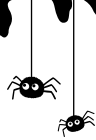


PUMPKIN



LAVA LAMP



YOU'LL NEED

A clear plastic or glass bottle or jar
A bottle of vegetable oil
Water
Alka seltzer
Food colouring
Black marker
Flashlight - optional



INSTRUCTIONS

Draw a pumpkin face on the bottle or jar.

Fill the bottle about a quarter full with water. Slowly pour vegetable oil into the container until it is nearly full.

The oil and water should separate into two layers, water at the bottom and oil on top.

Add a few drops of food colouring. The food colouring will pass through the oil and mix with the water at the bottom.

Drop half an Alka-Seltzer tablet into the container and watch the bubbles.

Add more Alka-Seltzer little by little to keep the bubbles rising and falling.

Place a flashlight behind the lava lamp to make it glow!

Why does it work?

Oil and water don't mix, and oil is less dense than water, so it floats on top. Food colouring mixes with the water but not the oil.

Alka-Seltzer contains citric acid and sodium bicarbonate. As the tablet dissolves, the citric acid and sodium bicarbonate mix to form carbon dioxide gas and sodium citrate. The gas bubbles carry coloured water up through the oil. When the bubbles reach the surface and pop, the coloured water sinks back down, creating a bubbling lava lamp effect!



Adult supervision required. Do not drink the mixture. Use a container suitable for the activity, and never seal the container while the reaction is taking place.

