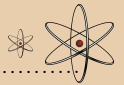


Surface Tension & Colors



Recipe for Science: Surface Tension & Attraction



Materials: Food coloring, a cup of warm, whole fat milk, liquid dish soap, a plate, cotton swabs

Directions: Pour the warm milk onto the plate so it covers the bottom but is not more than $\frac{1}{2}$ inch deep. Put drops of different food coloring at four spots around the edge of the plate. Ask why the food coloring isn't sinking (because it is less dense than the milk and the surface tension is holding it up). Dip one end of a cotton swab into the dish soap and gently dip into the center of the plate. Invite the young scientist(s) to describe what they see. Repeat the last step until the colors stop moving (until there is no more fat in the milk to be attracted to the soap.)



An Extra Step: Form a hypothesis about what would happen if the soap and milk were mixed together before adding the food coloring.

Repeat and see!

Adapted from the National Afterschool Association



SEEDS is passionate about engaging the natural curiosity of youth with science, nature, art, and learning. Please enjoy these hands-on activities with your children and students.

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