THE PARTICIPATION TEAM

BOREDOM BUSTERS

If you are missing your science lessons at school, why not try out some of these fun experiments?

SCIENCE EXPERIMENTS

Regrowing Vegetables

Why not try regrowing some of the vegetables you've eaten for your dinner?

What you'll need: celery, carrot, romaine lettuce, spring onions, small/shallow containers, water

Directions:

Celery: Cut off the bottom 8cm of the stalk and place in a small bowl of water. After 3 or 4 days, it will start to grow from the centre of the celery.

Carrot: Place the top cut-off end of a carrot in a shallow bowl of water. The green leaves will shoot from the top.

Romaine Lettuce: Cut off the bottom of the head of lettuce and place in a small bowl of water. It should start to regrow in around 3 days.

Spring Onions: Use the white part of the onion, with any roots still intact. Place in a glass with water and it will start to grow.

Keep your experiments inside and place in a sunny spot to watch them grow!

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Create a Lava Lamp

What you'll need: a tall open container such as a glass, cooking oil, water, food colouring, fizzy vitamin tablet or Alka-Seltzer (effervescent tablets)

Directions:

1. Fill the container about a quarter to a third of the way up with water.
2. Add a few drops of food colouring and wait for the water to become coloured. You may need to stir or shake the bottle gently.
3. Pour cooking oil on top of the water until the container is nearly full.
4. Wait for the oil and water to separate.
5. Break the tablet into small pieces and drop them into the container one by one.
6. Watch the different liquids between to move!
7. Add more pieces of the tablet to keep the reaction going.

What's going on?: Water is denser than oil so it normally sinks to the bottom in a mixture like this. However, the fizzing tablet releases bubbles of carbon dioxide as it dissolves. The bubbles of carbon dioxide attach themselves to some of the water and food colouring mixture making it less dense than the oil and pull it to the top so it rises. When the bubbles reach the top, they pop and the water mixture sinks back to the bottom again through the oil.

Create a non Newtonian Fluid

Create slime that is neither a solid or a liquid!

Beware: This is a very messy experiment! Make sure you complete it somewhere with easy to wipe surfaces and avoid carpeted areas!

What you'll need: Cornflour, water, food colouring (optional)

Directions:

1. Pour water into a bowl.
2. Add 1.5 to 2 times the amount of cornflour, stirring constantly.
3. Add some drops of food colouring and continue mixing.
4. See what happens when you squeeze your slime, hit it or stir it quickly. Does it behave differently when you let it run through your fingers?
5. Experiment with the amount of water and cornflour to see what happens to the consistency of the slime.

What's going on?: You have created something called a Non Newtonian Fluid or Oobleck. It's a fluid that changes its properties depending on how much force or pressure is exerted on it! Sometimes it behaves like a solid, and at other times like a liquid.

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