



Project Exploration creates transformative learning opportunities for youth underrepresented in the sciences –particularly students of color and girls – by equipping them with the skills, practices, and mindset needed for a lifelong pursuit of learning. STEM@Home makes activities around science, technology, engineering, and math accessible and fun to do at home. This STEMbook activity, resources, and more are available at www.projectexploration.org/stemathome.

In this activity, you will:

Experiment with different solvents and Halloween candy.



Supplies Required:

- Candy corn
- Peeps
- Water
- Vinegar
- Seltzer water
- Toothpicks
- Clear cups

Video

Learn more about solvents: <https://tinyurl.com/y5hpi3aa>

Overview

Do you know what solids dissolve in water and what do not? It might just seem like you are making a bit of a mess, but you are actually experimenting with an important concept in chemistry called solutions. By mixing these solids (solutes) with a liquid (solvent), you may or may not have created solutions. What is a solution (or you might also hear it called a mixture)? A solution is when one substance (our solid) is dissolved in another substance (the water) with an even consistency. This is called a homogeneous mixture. We also do this when we experiment with growing crystals. You can mix in two or more substances but for our experiment, we are just mixing one solute and the one solvent together. Generally, the solute is smaller in quantity than the solvent. What would happen if it were the other way around?



Instructions

1. Measure and fill clear cups with each of the liquids you are using.
2. Place your candy in each of the cups and start the timer. Observe what happens to the candy in each liquid.
3. Try it first with candy corn, and then try it with the Peeps.
4. Use a stopwatch or timer to see how long it takes for each candy to dissolve.

Additional Resources

Think About It! What was different between the candy corn and Peeps? Which liquid was the fastest solvent? Which was the slowest? What did you notice about each candy as it broke down?

1. How is candy corn made? <https://tinyurl.com/y57rz7to>
2. Learn more about solvents: <https://tinyurl.com/yylyy2b3>
3. How are Peeps made? <https://tinyurl.com/y3djszcb>

Share It Out

Share on social media: Share the results of your experiment with family and friends! Share on social media and explain solvents. Use the hashtags:

#HalloweenScience
#ProjectExploration
#StemAtHome

For more activities like this one, go to www.projectexploration.org/stemhome. If you're interested in learning more about Project Exploration and our free events, programs, and activities, please complete our interest form and a staff member will be in touch with you: www.projectexploration.org/interest.

