

LAVA LAMP

This DIY lava lamp requires no heat or electricity. It is a perfect science project and indoor activity for a rainy day.

YOU WILL NEED:

- an empty water bottle
- vegetable oil
- water
- food coloring of your choice
- Alka-seltzer tablets
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MAKE YOUR OWN LAVA LAMP INSTRUCTIONS

First, fill the empty water bottle about 2/3 full with vegetable oil.

Fill the rest with water, leaving a little of space at the top.

Notice that the water sinks below the vegetable oil. Oil and water just do not mix. The oil floats on the surface because the water is heavier (has a higher density) than oil.

Now, add the food coloring.

The food coloring will only mix with the water, not the oil. We stirred our concoction with a chop stick to mix the food coloring well with the water.

I don't recommend shaking the mixture. This causes a lot of little bubbles to form in the oil, which makes the effect of the lava lamp less stellar.

NOW FOR THE MAGIC...

When you are ready for the fun, break an Alka-seltzer tablet into four pieces. Have your child drop in one piece at a time.

Have fun watching what happens! The best part is that your homemade lava lamp will work over and over again. You can even screw on the little plastic cap and break it out a few days later for fun. All you need is more Alka-seltzer.

WHY DOES IT WORK?

When you drop in the alka seltzer, it sinks to the bottom and starts dissolving. As it dissolves, it forms a gas which rises to the top and takes a little of the colored water with it. The gas bubble breaks on the surface and the colored water sinks back to the bottom.

