

Make your own lava lamp

Brief summary:

In this activity you will make your own lava lamp.

You will need:

- A clean 1 litre clear soft drink bottle
- 3/4 cup of water
- Vegetable oil
- Antacid tablets (such as Quick-Eze or Mylanta)
- Food colouring

What to do:

Step 1. Pour the water into the bottle.

Step 2. Use a measuring cup to slowly pour the vegetable oil into the bottle until it's almost full. You may have to wait a few minutes for the oil and water to separate.

Step 3. Add 10 drops of food coloring to the bottle; the drops will pass through the oil and then mix with the water below.

Step 4. Break an antacid tablet in half and drop it into the bottle. Watch it sink to the bottom and watch the lava start to flow.

Step 5. To keep the effect going, just add another piece of antacid tablet. For a true lava lamp effect, shine a flashlight through the bottom of the bottle.

Note: You can simply add more antacid tablets to restart the lava lamp.

Take it further:

Repeat the experiment using water of different temperatures (very cold or very hot - get an adult to help you) or using antacid tablets of different sizes. How do these changes affect the lava lamp?

Big questions:

- What is an oil spill and how do they happen?
- How do ice and water interact during an oil spill?
- How does oil affect marine life during an oil spill?

