

May Experiment: Lemon Volcano!

To support children's scientific learning outside of school, each month I'll be sharing a fun, hands-on experiment that families can try at home. May's experiment is all about exciting reactions – we're making our very own lemon volcano!

This fizzy activity is full of colour, safe to try, and uses everyday items from the kitchen.

What You Need:

1 fresh lemon (or more to try different variations)

Sharp knife (ask an adult to help!)

Baking tray

Lolly stick or teaspoon

Extra fresh lemon juice (optional)

Food colouring

Baking soda



What To Do:

- 1) Roll your lemon around on the table using your palm – this helps release more juice inside.
- 2) Ask an adult to cut a small slice off the bottom of the lemon (just the rind) so it can stand up on the tray.
- 3) Place the lemon upright on a baking tray and cut off the top to reveal the juicy pulp inside.
- 4) Use a lolly stick or teaspoon to mash and mix the inside of the lemon, creating as much juice as you can.
- 5) Add a bit more fresh lemon juice if you want an extra-juicy reaction.
- 6) Squirt in some food colouring – try different colours for fun effects!
- 7) Spoon in some baking soda and get ready... your lemon volcano will bubble, fizz, and erupt right before your eyes!

What's Going On?

This experiment is a fun example of an acid–base reaction.

Lemon juice is an acid.

Baking soda is a base.

When the two mix, they create a chemical reaction that produces carbon dioxide gas – this is what causes all the fizzing and bubbling, just like a mini volcano erupting!

Try Taking It Further:

What happens if you use a lime or an orange instead of a lemon?

Try using different food colouring in different lemons.

Add a bit more baking soda or lemon juice – does the reaction get bigger?

Can you find other kitchen acids and bases to test?

If you have any questions or would like to share a photo of your lemon volcano, I'd love to hear from you!

Email me at: newzealand@lainesmeadprimary.co.uk

Happy experimenting!

Mrs Smith