

## Stemmies Project 1 – Lava Lamp

**Do not do this experiment without the assistance of a grown up.**

Please see school website, [sjlmidland.org](http://sjlmidland.org), for an example and instructional video.

### Materials:

- Jar
- Food color
- Vegetable oil
- Alka-Seltzer
- Water (you provide)

### Instructional steps:

1. Open jar
2. Fill jar to top lower rim with water as vegetable oil has already been added to the jar
3. Open food coloring and add 5 to 8 drops to desired color (may need more for yellow)
  - a. Watch as food color changes water color
4. Open Alka-Seltzer packet and break tablets into 3 to 4 pieces
5. Carefully drop one piece at a time into the jar and replace lid
6. Enjoy the show of the lava lamp
7. Add more Alka-Seltzer once effect wears off

### What experiment demonstrates:

This experiment shows that the vegetable oil is less dense than the water, and the oil rises above it. It also shows that when the Alka-Seltzer tablets dissolve, they create bubbles of carbon dioxide (a chemical) which rise above both the water and the vegetable oil creating a cool effect.

Enjoy!

If you have any questions, let me know.

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