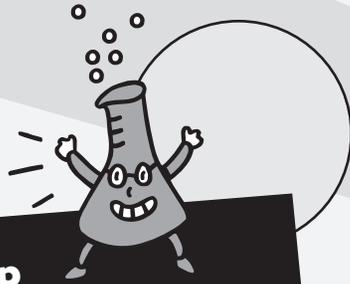




What You Need

- large clear drinking glass
- water
- vegetable oil
- about 4 tablespoons of salt



Science Scoop

What's making the vegetable oil bubbles sink? Salt! Vegetable oil is **less dense** than water, so it **floats** on water. When you add the salt, the salt **mixes** with the vegetable oil. This mix of vegetable oil and salt is **more dense** than the water so it **sinks** in bubbles. When a bubble goes underwater, the oil separates from the salt and the salt **dissolves** in the water. Once the oil separates from the salt, the bubble is again less dense than the water so it **floats** to the top.

Cauldron Bubbles



1 Fill a glass about half full of water.

2 Add about a half inch of oil. **Wait** for the water and oil to **separate** into two layers.

3 What do you think will happen when you **add salt**? Make a **prediction**.

4 Pour in the salt.

5 What happens? (If nothing happens, **add** more salt.)



Now it's time to **experiment**. What happens if you use **sugar** instead of salt? Or, what happens if you use **sand**? Choose **one thing** to change (that's the variable) and **predict** what you think will happen. Then **test it** and **send** your results to ZOOM at pbskids.org/zoom

Sent in by Margaret H. of Jackson, NJ



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