

The Legendary Volcano

Our lava might have been homemade but the real stuff comes right out of volcanos! Let's have a go at making our own volcano with a twist!

TOP TIP: An awesome extra idea is to decorate your volcano so it looks realistic. Use paper mache and paint and all the rest! Here I just want to show you how to make sure it works - so your volcano erupts with a bang!

What do I need:

- Washing up liquid
- White vinegar
- Cup or glass
- Baking soda
- Spoon

How do I do it?

STEP 1 - Fill your glass just over half full with water, add 3 tea spoons full of baking soda and give it a good stir until most of the baking soda dissolves.

STEP 2 - Add a good squirt of washing up liquid into the cup and once again give it a stir.

STEP 3 - Make sure your volcano is in the kitchen or outside (or somewhere you don't mind making a mess).

STEP 4 - Quickly pour in just under a quarter of a cup of vinegar and enjoy your very own volcanic eruption!

What's going on?

Congratulations - You just made your very own chemical reaction! Mixing the acid (vinegar) and the alkali (bicarbonate of soda) and releasing bubbles of carbon dioxide (CO_2). The washing up liquid is just there to trap those bubbles so it flows over the 'volcano' like real lava!

More Fun Please - Experiment like a real scientist!

- Try different amounts of both the vinegar and the baking soda and try and make the perfect eruption!
- If you're feeling brave (and are somewhere where it's ok to make a big mess) then add some red food colouring into your mixture, before you add the vinegar, to make it look just like real lava!

