



SEGMENT INSTRUCTIONS

Lava Jars

What you need:

- Flask, bottle, or glass jar
- Vegetable oil (or any other type of oil)
- Water
- Food colouring – your choice of colour!
- Alka-Seltzer tablets (or any other type of fizzy tablets)

Instructions:

1. Fill the jar most of the way up with vegetable oil.
2. Fill the rest of the jar with water. The water will sink to the bottom under the oil.
3. Add a few drops of food colouring. The food colouring is water based, so it will also sink and colour the water that is now at the bottom of the jar.
4. Break an Alka-Seltzer tablet into a few small pieces, and drop them in the jar one piece at a time.
5. Watch your lava lamp erupt into activity! As the reaction slows down, you can add more Alka-Seltzer to keep things moving.

What's happening?

- The water sinks below the oil, because it's heavier.
- Water and oil don't like each other, so they won't mix together.
- When the Alka-Seltzer tablet starts dissolving, it creates a gas. Gas is very light, so it rises to the top. As the gas rises, it takes some of the coloured water with it. When the blob of water reaches the top, the gas escapes the top of the jar and down goes the water again.

