

Expanding Snowman

You've probably seen snowmen melt when it gets warm outside, but have you ever seen one...EXPLODE?! Have fun making your own exploding snowman and learn about chemical reactions!

#childrensmuseums #DailyDoseofPlay #cdmpowerofplay
#blono

Materials

- Plastic Sandwich Bag
- Permanent Markers (Optional)
- Baking Soda
- White Vinegar
- Paper Towel

Instructions

Before you get started make sure you have all of your materials gathered. Since this experiment can 'explode' make sure you are on a surface where nothing can be damaged. A shower, bathtub, or kitchen counter might work best! If you'd like, take a few minutes to decorate your plastic bag with a snowman face!

1



Start by placing 3 teaspoons of baking soda on a paper towel.

My family uses recycled paper towels which is why my paper towel is brown

2.



Fold up your paper towel and place it in your plastic sandwich bag.

3



Add 1 cup of vinegar and QUICKLY zip up your plastic sandwich bag.

As baking soda mixes with vinegar carbon dioxide is created. The carbon dioxide is trapped in the tightly closed plastic bag the bag expands.

*It is important to be quick so none of the gas will escape

4



Your snowman will quickly expand and eventually explode!

Eventually the plastic bag will be filled with so much carbon dioxide that the pressure will be too much! When this happens the bag pops or explodes!

Want even more fun?!

- Try different amounts of vinegar and baking soda. How do the reactions differ?
- Try a gallon sized plastic bag. What happens? What about with a pint size?

If it is difficult to get the bag closed quickly put the vinegar in the bag first. Then have someone place the folded paper towel with baking soda in the bag but not touching the vinegar. Close the bag tightly and when ready let the paper towel drop into the vinegar!