

Make Your Own Volcano

Science Activity

You will need:

1. Washing up liquid
2. Vinegar
3. Plastic cup
4. Bicarbonate of soda
5. Red food colouring



You could build a paper mache volcano and put the cup inside it for extra effect!

Method:

1. Fill your cup just over half full with water, add 3 teaspoons of bicarbonate of soda and give it a good stir until most of the bicarbonate of soda dissolves.
2. Add two drops of red food colouring and a good squirt of washing up liquid into the cup and once again give it a stir.
3. Make sure your volcano is in the kitchen or outside (or somewhere you don't mind making a mess).
4. Quickly pour in just under a quarter of a cup of vinegar and enjoy your very own volcanic eruption!

The science behind it:

You just made a chemical reaction! By mixing the acid (vinegar) and the alkali (bicarbonate of soda), bubbles of carbon dioxide (CO_2) were released like in a pyroclastic flow. A pyroclastic flow moves very fast and is extremely dangerous, whilst lava flows move slowly and aren't much of a threat.