

Candy Cane Experiment



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Age: Any age – fun for everyone (Parent Supervision is recommended for younger children.)

Supplies:

- candy canes
- glass or clear plastic jars
- hot water
- cold water
- oil
- vinegar
- pen or pencil



Directions:

- 1) Try to predict what will happen with each liquid!
- 2) Select three or four liquids for your experiment: perhaps hot water, cold water, oil, and vinegar. Set each out in a glass or clear plastic jar.
- 3) Place a candy cane in each of the jars of liquid and observe what happens. What do you see?
- 4) You might like to look closely with a magnifying glass. You might like to set a timer to see exactly how long each candy cane takes to dissolve.
- 5) Note down what happens to the candy cane in each jar.
- 6) Were your predictions correct?

Discussion:

How do the colors disappear on the candy canes?

Answer:

Water molecules can insert themselves in sugar molecules, breaking apart the bonds that hold the sugar molecules together. Over time they can break all the sugar molecules apart, which dissolves the candy cane. The heat in hot water makes the molecules move faster, which is why the hot water dissolves the candy cane faster than the cold water.