

Creepy Chemical Reactions

Use these Halloween-themed family activities to “scare up” more learning at home.

Dear Parents,

Your child has been studying chemical reactions in class. Get into a spooky state of mind and try these fun, hands-on experiments together. They will help strengthen STEM skills—and are also just plain fun!

MONSTERS ALIVE

Bring a monster to life with this fun and fizzy Halloween experiment.

MATERIALS

Small plastic or glass bottle	Clothespin or food clip
Balloon	Permanent marker
Funnel	Baking soda
Measuring spoons	Vinegar
Measuring cup	

STEPS

1. Use permanent marker to draw the face of a jack-o'-lantern, a ghost, or a monster on your balloon.
2. Measure 2 tablespoons of baking soda. Use the funnel to add the baking soda into the balloon.
3. Twist the neck of the balloon and clip it with a clothespin (or food clip).
4. Measure 4 ounces of vinegar. Use the funnel to add the vinegar to the bottle.
5. Fit the opening of the balloon over the mouth of the plastic or glass bottle.
6. Release the clothespin and hold the balloon up to allow the baking soda to drop into the bottle.
7. Watch your Halloween creation “come alive” with the help of a creepy chemical reaction!

WHAT'S GOING ON?

When baking soda and vinegar mix, a new acid is created. Almost right away, the acid breaks down into two parts: water and gas. Your balloon monster grows as it fills with the gas created from the chemical reaction!

DINE ON SLIME

Whip up a batch or two of gloopy, gloppy Halloween slime! Give it a taste...if you dare!

INGREDIENTS

- 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ cups tonic water
- $\frac{1}{3}$ cup potato starch
- 2 Tbsp flavored gelatin

HOW TO

Combine all ingredients in a saucepan. Cook over medium heat for 2 to 3 minutes until goopy, stirring constantly. Remove from heat and allow to cool.

Try making different colors and flavors of slime. Give each creepy concoction a name. Arrange your slime in glass jars like potions in a scientist's lab or in dishes and goblets for a horrible and haunted Halloween display.

WHAT'S GOING ON?

Gelatin is made from long strings of acids that are bonded together. When you add heat, these strings break apart, become liquid, and mix with the water in your recipe. When you let your mixture cool, the acids bond with the water, creating a new, slimy substance!

