

ACTIVITY!

MAKE YOUR OWN MENTOS EXPLOSION

Chemical reaction or display of physical force? Try this experiment with candy and soda and see what happens.

CAUTION: This experiment should be done outside, ideally in the middle of a field or big lawn.

➤ Roll an index card into a tube as wide as the opening of a 2-liter plastic soda bottle. Tape the tube at the top and bottom.

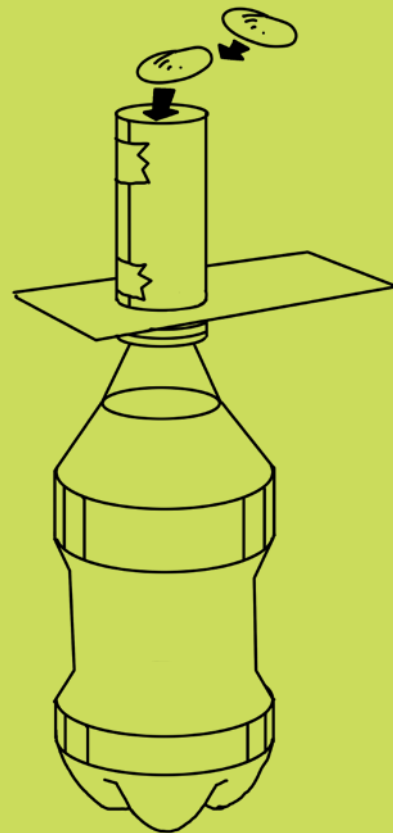
➤ Open a 2-liter diet soda bottle and set it on the ground away from people or objects. Make sure it doesn't tip over.

➤ Place your index-card tube on a second index card. Then open a roll of mint Mentos and stack 7 Mentos in the tube. Place the tube and card on top of the opening of the bottle so that the tube is just over the opening, with the flat index card in between.

➤ Being ready to move away, pull out the index card and let the Mentos slide into the soda. Quickly stand back! What happens?

TOOLBOX

- index card
- 2-liter bottle of diet soda
- Mentos candies
- science journal and pencil



Try This!

Try some variations. Remember to only vary one thing at a time. Fruit Mentos are smoother than the mint—which makes a bigger explosion? What happens if you use regular soda instead of diet soda? How many Mentos produce the largest fountain? What if you crush the Mentos before putting them in the soda? Do other candies work as well as Mentos? Record your observations in your science journal.