

ACTIVITY!

EXPERIMENT WITH HOMEMADE SOAP

Back when Ben Franklin was a kid, making soap was a smelly affair. It's much easier—and more fun—today. Have an adult help you with the knife and the hot glycerin (soap).

Caution: An adult must help you melt the glycerin.

➤ **Spray the inside of your ice cube trays or plastic cups with cooking spray.**

➤ **Cut a small chunk (about the size of a couple of ice cubes) of glycerin from the block.** Place the glycerin into the measuring cup or bowl. Heat on high in the microwave for 30 seconds. If any of the glycerin is still solid, continue heating just until the glycerin is melted. It should not be boiling.

➤ **Ask an adult to take the melted glycerin out of the microwave.** If using the dye, add a drop or two to the melted glycerin. Use the craft stick to stir so the dye is mixed in. Repeat with a drop or two of the essential oil, if using.

➤ **Have an adult pour the liquid glycerin into the molds or plastic cups.** Leave the soap in the molds until it completely hardens. Pop it out and enjoy!

CACHE KIT

- silicone ice cube trays or plastic cups
- vegetable cooking spray
- microwave-safe measuring cup or a Pyrex bowl
- block or bar of solid glycerin (available at craft stores)
- knife
- craft stick
- colored soap dyes, essential oils (optional)

Think Like Ben!

Test your soap against other kinds of soap. Try dish soap, laundry soap, and shampoo. Are they similar? How are they different? Which kind gets your hands cleaner? Which gets cloth and other materials cleaner? Use your science journal to keep track of your observations.



TEXT TO WORLD

Does your family or classroom use an almanac to help track the weather and other natural events? If so, how well does it predict things? If not, what do you use instead?