

ACTIVITY!

PROJECT!

EAT A WATER MOLECULE

We now know what the formula for water looks like. What does an actual molecule of water look like? How can we see something that small? Powerful X-ray machinery allows scientists to predict how the atoms in a molecule look. Let's build a model so we can see, too.

1 Break a toothpick in half and press one half into the grape, leaving part of it showing.

2 Attach a blueberry to the other side of the toothpick.

3 Put the other toothpick half in the grape. Arrange the toothpicks the way a cat's ears would be.

4 Put the other blueberry on that toothpick. You've made an edible model of a water molecule! The toothpicks are holding your fruit together the way a bond holds atoms. Remember that bonds act like magnets. The bonds hold the hydrogen and oxygen atoms together, forming a molecule of water!

5 In your science notebook, draw the process of two hydrogen atoms bonding with an oxygen atom. What predictions can you make based on your drawing? What might a drawing of a salt molecule look like?

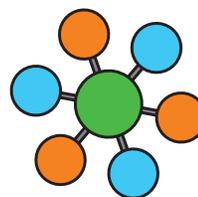
6 You can eat your water molecule model, but be careful not to eat the toothpick!

SUPPLIES

- * toothpick
- * 1 grape
- * 2 blueberries

DID YOU KNOW?

Water is the most abundant compound on Earth! Notice how the most common element, hydrogen, is needed to form water.



Think About It! What other fruits or vegetables could you use to make a water molecule? When you choose, remember that an oxygen atom is larger than a hydrogen atom.

WORDS TO KNOW

X-ray: a powerful wave of energy that lets doctors see bones inside bodies.