

Inquire & Investigate



Ideas for Supplies

- › large balloon
- › empty clear plastic soda bottle, with cap
- › warm water
- › sugar
- › teaspoon
- › package of dry yeast
- › science notebook

Change the temperature of the water or change the organic material. For example, instead of using a sugar solution, try sprinkling yeast on small pieces of banana, apple, or bread in the bottle. What happens? What differences, if any, do you observe?

INVESTIGATE MORE

DECOMPOSERS AT WORK

Yeast is a single-celled fungus. Like other decomposers, yeast feeds on organic material (sugar). The decomposition process produces CO_2 . In this activity, you'll see a decomposer (yeast) at work!

Stretch the balloon a few times. You want to ensure it inflates easily during this activity.

Fill the soda bottle with warm water. It should be about half full.

Add 2 teaspoon of sugar to the warm water. Stir the sugar and water until the sugar dissolves.

Add a teaspoonful of yeast to the liquid. Seal the bottle with its cap and shake it to thoroughly mix in the yeast.

Remove the cap from the bottle. Place the balloon over the mouth of the bottle. Check to make sure the balloon is securely attached to the bottle.

Observe the bottle and the balloon. Record your observations. What happens? Explain your results.