

Awe and Wonder

Make Your Own Volcano

You will need:

Vinegar



Washing-up liquid

Plastic Cup



Red food colouring

Baking soda



Method:

1. Fill your glass just over half full with water, add 3 tea spoons of baking soda and give it a good stir until most of the baking soda dissolves. Then add 3 drops of red food colouring and stir until it turns red.
2. Add a good squirt of washing up liquid into the cup and once again give it a stir.
3. Make sure your volcano is in the kitchen or outside (or somewhere you don't mind making a mess).
4. Quickly pour in just under a quarter of a cup of vinegar and enjoy your very own volcanic eruption!



The Science Bit

You just made a chemical reaction! By mixing the acid (vinegar) and the alkali (bicarbonate of soda), bubbles of carbon dioxide (CO_2) were released like in a pyroclastic flow. These move very fast and are extremely dangerous, whilst lava flows move slowly and aren't much of a threat.