

EXPANDING SOAP

Did you ever wonder what happens to Ivory soap in the microwave?
Let's find out!

INSTRUCTIONS:

STEP 1: Unwrap and place your soap in the microwave.

STEP 2: Microwave for 1 to 2 minutes.

STEP 3: Allow the soap to cool before touching.

Enjoy the sensory experience of playing with this new substance!

SUPPLIES

Microwave
Bar of Ivory soap
Microwavable bowl
(large)
Utensils for play

THE SCIENCE

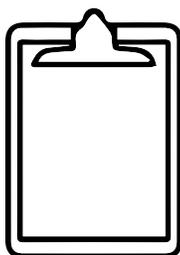
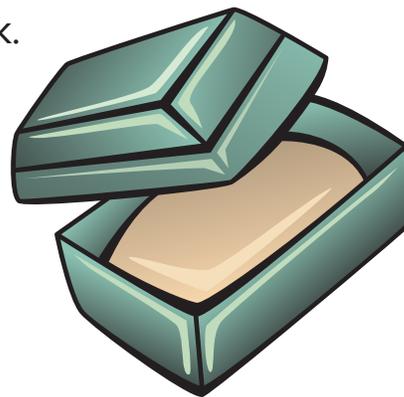
When you heat Ivory soap in the microwave, the appearance of the soap is changed but no chemical reaction occurs. This is an example of a reversible change or physical change.

Microwaving softens the soap, then heats the water and air inside to expansion, causing the growth you saw. The expanding gas (air) pushes on the softened soap, causing it to expand up to 6 times in size. Microwave popcorn works in much the same way! How large did your soap monster get?



Expanding Soap Observations

Use this worksheet to process and evaluate your work.



RECORD

What happened when you microwaved the soap?

What is special about the soap that makes it expand?

Is this a physical or chemical reaction?

What did you learn?
