

JR-SCIENTISTS

GAS BUBBLES

Learn how anti-gas medicine works in your stomach with this fun experiment using chemistry!

INSTRUCTIONS

STEP 1: Crush two tablets of simethicone in a zip bag, using a rolling pin. Pour it into a cup.

STEP 2: Fill both cups half full with water.

STEP 3: Stir the cup with the simethicone.

STEP 4: Add a straw to each cup. Blow air into each cup and see if you can form bubbles. Record observations.

STEP 5: Now add five drops of dish soap to each cup and stir.

STEP 6: Now try blowing bubbles in each cup. What happened?

THE SCIENCE

When we digest our food, our digestive system often makes something we call 'gas'. They are bubbles within our stomach and intestines and sometimes they can be a little painful. Simethicone is a medicine that helps with that gas pain.

Simethicone is a chemical mixture of dimethicone and silicon dioxide. Combined, they form an anti-foaming agent that breaks up gas bubbles in your stomach and intestines. It changes the surface tension of gas bubbles, allowing the body to eliminate them easier.

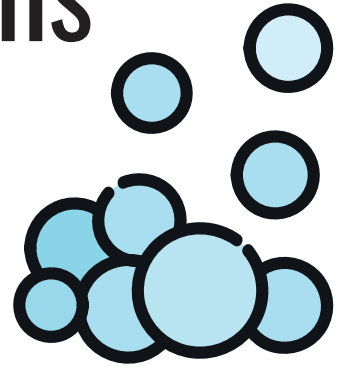
SUPPLIES

2 clear cups
Water
Simethicone tablets
Straws
Dish soap
Rolling pin
Zip bag



Gas Bubbles Observations

Use this worksheet to process and evaluate your work.



What happened when you blew air into the water before you added soap?

What happened when you blew air into each cup after you added soap?

Try this with soda instead of water. Any differences?

How long did it take the simethicone to dissolve?

What have I learned about simethicone?
