

POP OR NOT

Learn about colors and heat absorption with this exciting balloon popping experiment!

INSTRUCTIONS

STEP 1: THE LIGHT FROM THE MAGNIFYING GLASS WILL BE VERY HOT. SUPERVISION REQUIRED.

STEP 2: Blow up several balloons and tape to a wall or table outside.

STEP 3: Use the magnifying glass to aim bright sunlight onto each balloon, one at a time.

STEP 4: Record your results on the observations sheet.

SUPPLIES

Magnifying glass
Balloons
(white, and
assorted other
colors)
Tape

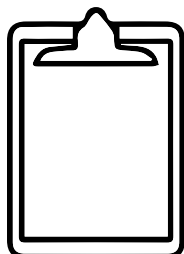
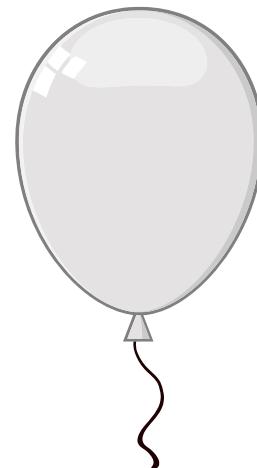
THE SCIENCE

The magnifying glass acts like a special tool that makes the sunlight come together in one tiny spot on the balloon. The color of the darker balloons is like a sponge that really likes sunlight and soaks it up. With a white balloon, it reflects more light and absorbs less heat.

So, it's like the dark balloon drinks in the sunlight, gets too hot, and pops like a balloon party!

Pop or Not Observations

Use this worksheet to process and evaluate your work.



RECORD

Record the behavior of each color balloon.

COLOR

POP OR NOT?

COLOR

POP OR NOT?

COLOR

POP OR NOT?

What do you think will happen to the balloon when you magnify the light?

Did you notice anything different happening with any of the balloons?

Why do you think some of the balloons behaved differently?

What did you learn about heat and colors?

