

SKITTLES EXPERIMENT

This **skittles experiment** is easy, low cost and provides lots of investigative opportunities. Try using different temperatures of water, white vinegar or even lemonade to discover what happens.

WHAT YOU NEED:

- A plate or container – preferably white
- Skittles, other coated sweets work too
- Water

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Place your skittles or sweets into a white container, try to alternate the colors.
2. Carefully pour water into the container, if the skittles move, just push them back into place quickly.



WHY DO THE COLORS SPREAD?

Skittles are coated in food coloring and sugar. When you pour water over the skittles the colored coating dissolves spreading through the water.

The color and sugar **dissolve** into the water and then **diffuse** through the water, making it the color of the skittle.

EXTENSION IDEAS

Can you time how long the colors take to reach the center of the plate using cold and warm water? Which do you think will be faster?

Try using other sweets, can you find any that work as well as skittles?

QUESTIONS TO ASK AND THINK ABOUT

Why do you think the colors don't mix?

Can you spot the 'S' from the skittles? What happens to it?

How could you speed up the reaction?



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