

The winter break is coming to an end, and what better way than to get those young minds thinking once again! This experiment is going to make you think for sure as we create some fun treats using a bit of kitchen chemistry. Let's get started!

***An adult must help you with this experiment.**

Materials

sucrose
concentrated liquid sucrose
potassium tartrate
lactose
food colouring
oil of peppermint
saucepan
measuring cups
measuring spoons
heat source
candy thermometer
aluminum foil
stirring utensils

Procedure

1. Decipher the list of chemicals you have. They are really easy, and I am pretty certain many of you have them in your kitchen already!
 - sucrose = table sugar
 - concentrated liquid sucrose = clear corn syrup
 - potassium tartrate = cream of tartar
 - lactose = milk
2. Measure 60 mL (1/4 cup) of sugar. Add to the saucepan.
3. Measure 8 mL (1 ½ tsp) milk. Add to the saucepan.
4. Measure 10 mL (2 tsp) clear corn syrup and 1.25 mL (1/4 tsp) cream of tartar. Add both to the saucepan.
5. Stirring often, heat the mixture until it reaches 116°C (240°F).
6. Once you reach the temperature, remove from the heat and cover for 2 minutes.
7. Return to the heat and stir until it reaches 116°C (240°F) or sometimes called the soft ball stage.
8. Remove from heat and add a couple of drops of peppermint oil.
9. Stir carefully – it is hot!
10. Pour the mixture in drops on the foil. Allow to cool and enjoy!

Explanation

I bet you did not even know that you were doing a chemistry experiment. This quick and easy (not to mention delicious) science activity can easily be pulled together with some simple ingredients

you can find in your kitchen. Try investigation other “chemicals” you can find in your kitchen. For instance sodium bicarbonate – any guesses? Have fun exploring your kitchen!

If you are looking for more ideas, always visit our website for past hands on activities as they are quick and easy to gather up the materials for!

Patty Rooks, Senior Science Consultant

PRAXIS, “Making Science Fun”. Contact Praxis at praxis@praxismh.ca, www.praxismh.ca, Tweet or follow us @PraxisMedHat, or friend us on Facebook. Address: c/o 200 7th Street S.W., Medicine Hat, AB, T1A 4K1 Phone: 403-527-5365, Fax: 403-527-6570.