

Classroom Activity

10 Big Question: Why does climate change?

Make your own thermometer!

You will need:

water
rubbing alcohol (eg. Isocol from the chemist)
food colouring
small plastic bottle
clear drinking straw
modelling clay or plasticine

Method:

Pour half water and half rubbing alcohol into the bottle until it is $\frac{1}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{4}$ full then add a couple of drops of food colouring.
Place drinking straw in the bottle so that it is in the liquid but not touching the bottom of the bottle.
Seal the bottle with modelling clay/plasticine to hold the straw in place.

Now hold your hands on the bottom and see what the heat of your hands does to the liquid!

This classroom activity was suggested by Ella McKinley, Honours student with the School of Earth and Environmental Sciences, University of Adelaide.