

Classroom Activities

10 Big Questions - How can we reduce our reliance on fossil fuels?*

Pressure-Volume Relationships: Expanding a Marshmallow

Materials Required:

- 140-mL syringe with end cap
- Mini-marshmallow

Procedure

Take the syringe apart. Place one mini-marshmallow in the syringe; replace the plunger, pushing it down until it just reaches the marshmallow. Place the end cap on the syringe. Pull the plunger and observe the marshmallow.

If desired, you can repeat this several times.

Remove the end cap, pull the syringe apart, and remove the marshmallow. Observe the marshmallow.

Marshmallow should be thrown out after finished and not consumed.

For an explanation of what has happened and why visit:

<http://www.chymist.com/Explanation.pdf>

This classroom activity was suggested by Rachel Crees – PhD student, School of Chemistry and Physics, University of Adelaide.

* To find out more about the 10 Big Questions, go to:

<http://www.sciences.adelaide.edu.au/learning-teaching/10bq/>

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