



SCIENCE OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

Colour Symphony

Recommended age group: 6-10 years

You will need:

- 1 shallow cereal bowl
- Food colouring (at least 3 different colours)
- Whole milk - low fat milk will not work for this experiment
- Dishwashing detergent

What to do:

- Carefully pour the milk into a dish so that it just covers the bottom.
- Add about 2-3 drops of different coloured food colouring onto the milk in different spots.
- Add a drop of the liquid detergent in the middle and watch the show!
- To clean up, simply pour the milk down the drain. Don't drink it!

How does this work?

So you know where the colour comes from, but why milk and liquid detergent?

The main job of dish washing detergent is to go after fat and break it down. Usually the fat is on dishes from the food we eat, but fat is also in milk. When you drop the liquid detergent onto the tray, it will try to break down the fat in the milk. While it is doing that, it causes the colours to scatter and mix creating a very colourful display.