



Science Experiment: Belch Model Project: Food Science

TIME: 15 Minutes

OBJECTIVE:

Youth will have the opportunity to see how the stomach works.

MATERIALS:

- Vinegar
- Medium or large balloon
- Funnel
- Baking soda
- Teaspoon

BEFORE YOU START:

1. Make predictions with the youth on what they think will happen.

WHAT TO “DO”:

1. Pour 2 teaspoons of vinegar into the bottom of balloon (your stomach).
2. Place funnel into neck of balloon; add one heaping teaspoon of baking soda to balloon stomach.
3. Very quickly close the balloon by pinching its neck (your esophagus).
4. Watch your balloon stomach expand with gas.
5. Stretch and slightly un-pinch the esophagus to release gas (belch!).
6. Keep practicing the pinch release until you can make the belch model sound like a real burp.

REFLECT:

1. What was your favorite part?
2. Do you think this is like our stomach?

APPLY:

1. Inside your stomach is a little pocket of air. When this air becomes squeezed, or when you add extra gas from drinking carbonated drinks or talking fast, you belch. In both of these cases, your stomach does nothing to create new gas.
2. If you take an antacid or sodium bicarbonate for an upset stomach, you may belch like crazy. Now you've actually produced gas in your stomach. Your stomach excretes lots of acid to break down food. When you're uncomfortable with too much of that acid, you might take an antacid. When the chemicals in the antacid react with the acids in your stomach, gas is created. The gas builds up and up until you just can't hold it anymore BEELLLLCH.

Source: Utah State University Creepy Science Camp Curriculum