FIG at Home

SWEET SCIENCE

Try this sweet, colorful science experiment using only candy and water.

MATERIALS

- White plate or baking dish
- Skittles candy in rainbow colors (or M&M's)
- Warm water

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Place the Skittles in a circle around your dish. It helps if the dish already has an outline of a circle. Place the candies in a rainbow pattern or create a pattern of your own.
2. Carefully pour warm water into the middle of the dish. Make sure the water reaches both sides of the candy, but do not cover the candy completely.
3. Watch as the colors start to dissolve into the water creating a rainbow effect.

Why don't the colors mix? Each color has a slightly different chemical make up. When dissolved in water each color solution has a different density creating a barrier that prevents the water from mixing. This is an example of stratification.

Continue to experiment by changing one variable at a time. What if you build a different shape? What happens when you use hot or cold water? What if you try a different type of candy? Compare the results of each experiment.

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