

Ivory Soap

You will need

1. A bar of Ivory Soap
2. A microwave
3. A clean plate

What to do

1. Ask you pupils to examine a bar of ivory soap: touch it, smell it and describe its properties
2. Put the soap on a microwaveable plate and microwave it for 1-2 minutes at full power
3. Watch the ivory soap expand to six times its size right before your eyes, making interesting shapes
4. Let your pupils touch the soap and explore the results hands-on, then encourage a discussion
5. Repeat the experiment with changes to some of the variables such as microwaving it for longer or cutting the soap into smaller pieces first

How does it work?

Ivory Soap is whipped with air during production, meaning that it is less dense than normal soap and floats on water because it has air pockets inside. This means that when the soap is heated in the microwave, the air pockets expand thus creating the interesting shapes.

