



MILKY FIREWORKS

IDEAL AGE: 3+

Make swirly twirly food coloring "fireworks" in milk.

LEARN TOGETHER

Asking questions, making guesses, and seeing what happens next is a great way to get children excited about learning while developing key skills like planning, collecting information, and making observations.

MATERIALS

- Cotton swabs
- Food coloring
- Dish soap
- Milk
- Saucer or shallow bowl
- Cup
- Small objects like rocks, popcorn kernels, or marbles

MAKE TOGETHER

Surface tension is a force or "layer of skin" on the surface of a liquid. Surface tension is what insects use to walk on water and how water droplets hold their shape.

Let's use surface tension to do a fun tie dye experiment!

- 1 Pour milk into a saucer or shallow bowl and pour some dish soap into a cup.
- 2 Squirt 4-6 drops of different food coloring into the milk. Let the drops sit there. Watch how the food coloring sits on the surface layer of the milk.
- 3 Dip one end of your cotton swab into the dish soap.
- 4 Gently dip it into the milk and watch the colors dance! The soap breaks the surface tension causing a tie dye or marbling effect.

Take the science even further!

- 1 What happens if you cover small rocks, popcorn kernels, or marbles in soap and drop them in?
- 2 Try drawing or coloring what you see! Practice your photography skills and take some pictures. Be careful not to spill!



For more fun activities, please go to
cmom.org/resources

