

CORNSTARCH: A SUPER SCIENCE SUBSTANCE!

PART 1



SUPERNOVA
DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY | HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA

LEARN ABOUT NEUTRAL & NEGATIVE CHARGES

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MATERIALS

- 1 balloon
- 1/4 cup of cornstarch
- 1/4 cup of oil
- 1 large bowls
- 1 spoon

15 MINS

PROCEDURE

Step 1

Mix 1/4 cup of cornstarch with 1/4 of oil in a large bowl, until the solution becomes thick & the cornstarch is evenly dissolved.

Step 2

Blow up a new balloon and begin statically charging by rubbing against your hair.

Step 3

Hold the balloon over the bowl of solution. Begin slowly dripping the solution from a spoon over the bowl, while moving the balloon close to the spoon. You should see the cornstarch solution stop dripping, move towards the balloon, or jump to the balloon.

WHAT DO YOU THINK CAUSES THIS? READ BELOW TO FIND OUT!

PURPOSE & SCIENCE OUTCOMES

- The cornstarch solution has a neutral charge and is lightweight.
- The balloon builds up a negative static charge by gaining electrons from your hair.
- Negative charges repel other negative charges, but attract positive and neutral charges. Therefore, when you drip the neutral cornstarch solution near the balloon it is attracted to the negative charge.

ANY QUESTIONS? REACH OUT @SUPERNOVAATDAL