

Biology Bricks Activity

Cloud Formation

When there is warm, moist air rising and cooling in the atmosphere, it creates clouds. Close to the Earth, heat is exchanged rapidly between the ground and the air.

As air rises in the atmosphere, it also loses pressure, because the air becomes thinner. This experiment shows how cool air and low pressure forms a cloud.



You will need:

- *Safety glasses*
- *Empty 500ml clear plastic bottle with a tight fitting cap*
- *Graduated cylinder*
- *Match*
- *Rubbing alcohol*
- *Black paper*

Instructions

1. Put on your safety glasses.
2. Place about 25ml of rubbing alcohol in the bottle. Tightly replace the cap.
3. Shake the bottle to saturate the bottle's air with alcohol.
4. **(Under adult supervision)** Light a match and blow it out. Quickly remove the cap from the bottle and drop the smoking match in the bottle. Replace the cap.
5. Squeeze and release the bottle several times until you see a cloud form.
6. After the cloud forms, squeeze the bottle and hold it. What happens? Now release it. Again, what happens?