

SKITTLES SCIENCE



How can we separate the colours of skittles into a pattern?

HOW TO DO IT

- 1) Position your skittles in any pattern around the outside of your bowl. Make sure you have a mix of colours.
- 2) Carefully pour warm water onto the plate until the skittles are half submerged.
- 3) Observe what happens to the colours!

YOU WILL NEED

- Skittles
- Shallow bowl (either white or clear with white paper underneath)
- Warm water
- Cup



INVESTIGATE



Arrange the skittles in different colour combinations.



Time how quickly it takes for the colours to dissolve.

WHAT IS HAPPENING?

The coating on a skittle is made up mostly of sugar and food colouring. The warm water causes the colouring and sugar to dissolve and diffuse through the water.

The reason the colours do not initially mix is due to water stratification. Each colour creates a water solution with slightly different properties (e.g. density). This creates a barrier that prevents the colours from mixing.