

## Make a Lava Lamp

### Materials:

Cooking oil (vegetable oil)

Cold water (no ice)

Salt

A glass

Food coloring

### Instructions:

1. Fill the glass about three-quarters full of cold water.
2. Stir in a few drops of food coloring.
3. Add some cooking oil until you have about a half inch layer of oil on top of the water.

**\*\*Wait until the oil and water have separated into 2 layers before continuing to the next step.\*\***

### Question/prediction:

What will happen when you add the salt?

4. Sprinkle salt on top of the oil. Keep adding salt to see what happens.

### The science behind this project:

The oil is lighter than water so it floats. The salt is heavier than both the oil and the water so it sinks. As the salt passes through the oil layer, it picks up blobs of oil which cling to the grains of salt temporarily and sink to the bottom of the glass.

When the oil breaks free from the salt, it floats to the top.