

Make a Molecule

Aim

To help children learn more about the types of molecules found in fruits and sweets, as well as how molecules are formed.

Equipment

- Dried apricots
- Figs
- Raisins
- Large Gumdrops
- Small gem sweets
- Cocktail sticks
- Plastic mats
- Napkins
- Gloves
- Card
- Velcro

Activity

Children will be able to make the molecules on the paper out of sweets or fruits, using cocktail sticks. The children can take their molecule away in a napkin.

Demo instructions

Atom	Fruit – sorbitol and vitamin C	Sweet - glucose and fructose
Carbon	Fig	Large gumdrop
Oxygen	Dried apricot	Large gumdrop
Hydrogen	Raisin	Small gem

- Raisins can be pre-stuck onto the cocktail sticks to make things easier
- The different coloured sweets will need to be separated out into the beakers. It does not matter which colour sweet is used to represent the atoms
 - For carbon and oxygen use two different colours of the large gumdrops
 - For hydrogen use one colour of the small gem sweets
 - When one particular colour runs out, replace it with a different one (we do not need to use the same colour sweets throughout the day to represent the atoms)
- Check the molecule has been made correctly
- For the speed challenge: Time how long it takes to make the molecule. Add the time to the leader board on a piece of card stuck with a Velcro square– only keep the top 10 fastest times on the leader board.