

Marshmallow models

Education in Chemistry

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rsc.li/2BXmKNh
Niki Kaiser

Required equipment

- Marshmallows (at least three pink and three white per person/group)
- Cocktail sticks (six per person/group)

You can use mini marshmallows, but larger ones are easier to build with. This works best if the contrast between marshmallow colours is pronounced. If pupils are unable to distinguish between the two colours, they can mark them using a pen instead.

Ensure students do not eat the marshmallows, or remove them from the classroom.

Instructions

Demonstrate to students how to build and name the 'marshmallow molecules' using the examples on the worksheet (copied below). Draw students' attention to the details:

- The symbol for white marshmallows is Wh – it must be a capital W and lower case h
- The symbol for pink marshmallows is Pi
- If there is more than one marshmallow of the same type within a particular molecule, this is denoted using a subscript number.

Ask students to build the 'molecules' on the worksheet, then to build their own molecules and write the formulas for them.

