

Suzy's World

Noisy Bodies - Why does my body make rude noises?

Fact

- Your body makes lots of natural gas that it needs to get rid of.
- Sometimes that gas comes back up your oesophagus in what we call a burp and sometimes it passes through your intestines to come out your rectum as a "blow off".
- Burps come from a small sac of muscles in your stomach.
- Bacteria living in your large intestine eat any undigested food. As the bacteria eat they produce gases that escape through your anus as a "blow off".
- Passing wind and burping is natural and healthy but it's a good idea to say excuse me or pardon if you do it when other people are around.



Do you know

- In some cultures like Ancient Rome and some Middle Eastern countries burping is considered a complement to the cook.
- You probably burp about 15 times a day which means you would burp 38,325 times a year.
- Parents help babies burp because they swallow a lot of air when they drink from a bottle and that air can make them very uncomfortable.
- Everyone "passes wind".

Experiments you can do

Make a balloon burp.

(This can be messy so do it over the kitchen bench)

What you need:

Some balloons or a re-sealable plastic bag

¼ cup of vinegar

2 teaspoons of baking soda

What you do:

Pour the vinegar and baking soda through a funnel into the balloon or bag then clamp the balloon or bag shut. Let the vinegar react with the baking soda then open the mouth of the balloon or bag a little to let the gas escape. What does it sound like?



Other Investigations

Make a record of the all the different foods that you eat each day and see if you notice more gas escaping after certain foods.

Jokes/Rhymes

Pardon me for being rude,
It was not me, it was my food.
It just popped up to say hello,
And now it's gone back down below.