

Suzy's World

Soap - What makes soap work?

Fact

- Soap is attracted to things that are greasy/fatty/oily.
- Soap is made by a chemical reaction between fat and sodium. They join together to make soap.
- One part of a soap particle joins to water and helps to make things wet.
- The other end of a soap particle joins onto dirt and grease so it can't cling to the object you are washing.
- The water helps to clean things by rinsing the dirt and the soap away.



Do you know

- Some soaps are gentle so you can use them on your hands and skin and others are really tough for cleaning floors and cars.
- Your Great-great-grandmother probably had to make her own soap.
- People in the Middle East made the first soap over 5000 years ago. They used animal fat and ashes from the fire.

Experiments you can do

Try the cleaning experiment that I did on TV

What you need:

Dirty dinner dishes covered in grease (from fish and chips, chops etc)

Bowl of plain water

Bowl of water with detergent in it

What you do:

Try washing the dishes in water without any detergent. What happens? Then try washing them in the water with detergent. Are they easier to clean now?



Other Investigations

Get an adult to help you with this one.

Which of the cleaning products at your house makes the most bubbles? You can try things like shampoo, detergent, and bath soap.

Why do you think they might make bubbles?

Jokes

Why did the burglar have a bath before the robbery? He wanted to make a clean getaway.