Puffer Fish

Learn simple chemistry by triggering a reaction between an acid and a base that makes a 'fish' come to life.

From our bodies to our Earth's oceans and rocks, acids and bases play an important role in our lives and the environment around us. If you have tasted lemon juice or washed your hands with soap, you've experienced acids and bases. Scientists classify substances as acids, bases, or neutral, using what's called the pH scale, which stands for "potential of hydrogen." It measures the concentration of hydrogen ions, or charged hydrogen particles, in a substance.

Acids have a pH level below 7 while bases have a pH level above 7.

Acids and bases are at the heart of many chemical reactions and are essential in various industries, including agriculture, medicine, and manufacturing.

In this exciting experiment, you can mix an acid and a base inside a balloon and see what happens.

What You'll Need

- A balloon
- Plastic food-service gloves
- Baking soda
- Vinegar

What You'll Do

1. Working with a helper, pour a spoonful of baking soda into the uninflated balloon.
2. Cut a finger off the glove.
3. Pour 1-2 tablespoons of vinegar into the finger and tie it off.
4. Place a bag of vinegar inside the balloon. You might need a helping hand.
5. Tie off the balloon.
6. Use a marker to decorate your balloon.
7. Place the balloon on the floor.
8. Gently step on it. Watch what happens!