# Popping Candy

*Will your stomach explode if you drink soda while eating Pop Rocks®?* **Activity Guide**

## Try This!

Put a couple of pieces of candy in your mouth. What happens?

## What's Going On?

When you eat the candy, you hear and feel it fizzing. The candy pops and fizzes because it contains bubbles of carbon dioxide under high pressure. When you melt the candy shell, the carbon dioxide escapes with a pop.

When Pop Rocks® are made, the hot candy syrup is mixed with carbon dioxide gas under high pressure (600 pounds per square inch). This forms tiny, high-pressure bubbles of carbon dioxide gas in the candy. When the candy mixture cools and the pressure of the gas is released, the hard candy breaks into small pieces of carbonated candy.

## Now Try This!

1. Pour the contents of one packet of Pop Rocks candy into a balloon.
2. Attach the opening of the balloon to the opening of the soda pop bottle, being careful not to spill the candy into the bottle until you're ready.
3. All at once, dump the contents of the balloon into the soda. What happens?

## What's Going On?

You might have expected the balloon to fill up with the carbon dioxide from the candy and the soda pop. But actually, the balloon barely inflates.

When you combine the Pop Rocks and soda pop, no new gas is created—you're just releasing the gas that's in the candies and the soda pop. In other words, this is a physical reaction, not a chemical reaction.

And there isn't really much gas in the candy and soda pop combined—only enough to inflate the balloon a little bit. So it's pretty unlikely that your stomach would explode if you had a snack of Pop Rocks and soda pop.

## Learning Objectives

- Pop Rocks candy mixed with soda pop release gas in a physical reaction.
- There is not enough gas trapped in the candy to cause your stomach to explode.

## Materials

- Pop Rocks® candy
- 12- or 16-ounce bottle of soda pop
- Balloon


**Credits**
This project is made possible by a grant from the
Camille and Henry Dreyfus Special Grant Program in the Chemical Sciences.