

Magic Potion

12 Imagine you are a witch or wizard making a magic potion with
15 this fun activity.

16 Materials:

20 • Small containers (test-tubes / pots)

23 • Pipettes or spoons

25 • Bicarbonate Soda

26 • Vinegar

30 • Food colouring / glitter (optional)

31 Method:

39 1. If you are using food colouring or glitter,
44 add it into the container.

51 2. Pour in the vinegar, approximately filling to
57 the half-way point of the container.

65 3. Using a spoon, sprinkle in the bicarbonate soda.

73 4. Watch the 'magic' potion fizz, pop and bubble.

75 The Science:

83 Fizzing will happen because a neutralisation reaction occurs
93 between the acidic vinegar and the alkaline bicarbonate of soda,
96 releasing carbon dioxide.

97 Extension Ideas:

109 Try adding a little washing up liquid as this should thicken the
118 bubbles, or experiment with different colours and amounts of
123 bicarbonate of soda and vinegar.



Quick Questions



1. Which ingredient must be added to the potion first?



2. Find and copy a modal verb.



3. Why are food colouring and glitter 'optional'?



4. How does the layout help the reader?



5. In the final step, why does the author use inverted commas around the word 'magic'?

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Answers



1. Which ingredient must be added to the potion first?

Accept: Vinegar.



2. Find and copy a modal verb.

Accept 'will' or 'should'.



3. Why are food colouring and glitter 'optional'?

Accept an explanation that the glitter and colouring are not needed for the reaction to occur (as explained in 'The Science' section, so it is your choice whether you use them to enhance the look of the 'potion').



4. How does the layout help the reader?

Accept any explanation that this is an experiment so the instructions make it clear to the reader what is needed first, followed by the numbered steps to complete it.



5. In the final step, why does the author use inverted commas around the word 'magic'?

Accept any answer that refers to the use of sarcasm or the facts that the author is showing that the potion is not really magic.