

Homemade Snow



When I first tried this at home, I thought that my children were probably a bit old for it, but even my 16 year old enjoyed it, and they've all asked if they can make it every year at Christmas. My husband liked it too because there is quite a lot of science going on!

Equipment:

Mixing bowl
Large tray
Tin of shaving foam
Bicarbonate of soda - approx. 1kg
Spray bottle
Distilled (white) vinegar

Method:

1. Put about $\frac{3}{4}$ of the bicarbonate of soda into a mixing bowl.
2. Slowly spray the shaving foam in on top, and start to mix the two together.
3. Keep adding the shaving foam gradually, mixing as you go, until you have the consistency of snow. If you over do the shaving foam, add some of the reserved bicarbonate of soda to dry it out a little.
4. The bicarbonate of soda takes the moisture out of the foam, and expands as it does so.
5. You now have a mouldable substance that looks like snow, transfer it onto a tray for the children to play. It can get rather messy, and the tray helps to contain things.
6. Let the children play with this snow for a while.
7. Then as it dries out further, you can put a small amount of the distilled vinegar into the spray bottle, spray small amounts onto the snow and get the children to describe what is happening. (The reaction is like the vinegar/bicarbonate of soda volcano, though not as extreme, with the snow expanding rapidly.)

You can buy bicarbonate of soda in large quantities online from sellers such as Amazon. It works out much cheaper than buying it in small amounts.

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