

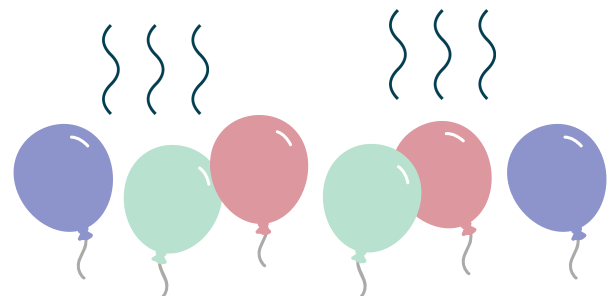


MICRO SCENTS

How can perfume get into a sealed balloon?

Materials

Two balloons
Two small bowls
Perfume
Water
String



Procedure

- Put 1/2 cup of water in each of the two bowls. Mix several drops of perfume into one of the bowls.
- Blow up both balloons and tie them using a string with a bow knot so they can be untied later.
- Place one balloon in each bowl. Press them into the bowl to create an air-tight seal. Leave the materials undisturbed for at least 2 hours.
- After at least two hours, take the balloons to another room where the perfume from the bowl cannot be smelled. Untie the balloon that was on the non-perfume bowl. Let the air out slowly and smell it. Untie the balloon that was on the perfume bowl. Let the air out slowly and smell it.

Results

The balloon that was left on the perfumed bowl will have the perfume smell inside of it.

Why?

A molecule is the smallest unit of a substance that still has all the properties of that substance. Perfume molecules are the tiniest pieces of perfume - any smaller, and they wouldn't be perfume anymore. They would be broken down into different types of atoms. These perfume molecules are small enough to permeate the wall of the balloon. When the air is let out of the balloon after a two-hour period, the perfume in the air of the balloon should be evident from the smell.