

Name: _____

Date: _____

Alternate Pretest/Posttest Passage

Coke and Mentos

Have you ever seen a fountain of soda? Some people have, when they drop Mentos into a bottle of Diet Coke. This activity has actually become quite popular. Some people have posted video clips about it on the Internet. Others have conducted experiments on TV.

What makes the fizz happen? Why does the fountain burst from the top of the bottle? Scientists say that it is a chemical reaction. Diet Coke is made with certain ingredients. Mentos are made of certain things as well. When the parts get together, they react. Then you see a fountain.

Look carefully at a Mentos. The surface has many small air pockets. Then drop a Mentos into a bottle of Diet Coke, and watch it sink. The air pockets release air very fast and make fizz (carbonation) rise. When the fizz rises, it brings the rest of the Diet Coke ingredients with it. That is cool science.

What other things have been tried? Some people have discovered that Diet Coke and Mentos create more fizz than regular Coke. This is because of the sweetener used in Diet Coke. Others discovered that Diet Coke worked better than lemon sodas. The cola in Diet Coke makes the difference. Some have also seen that larger bottles of Diet Coke work better than cans. That makes sense.

People have seen that Mentos create more fizz than other candies or mints. What about different flavors of Mentos? Lemon Mentos seem to produce the highest fountain. This may not be the only thing that makes a difference. It could have something to do with the age of the soda or the candy.

272/5.6

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Alternate Pretest/Posttest Comprehension Questions

Coke and Mentos

- 1) Where might you have seen experiments combining Coke and Mentos?

- 2) Why does the fountain burst from the top of the bottle?

- 3) What do the air pockets on Mentos do?

- 4) Why does Diet Coke seem to work better than regular Coke?

- 5) What is at least one other thing that could make a difference in the size of a fountain?