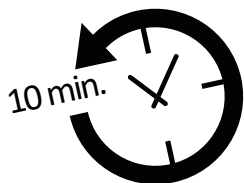


DAY 17

A SKEWED BALLOON



Today's experiment



RAFFLE DAY!!

More science info:



Think you can stick a skewer into a balloon without popping it? Sounds impossible right? Well, with the help of science it is possible!

In today's experiment we perform the unthinkable - sticking a sharp object into a balloon without bursting it and here is why this happens.

The balloon is made of rubber. Rubber is made of giant molecules (imagine miniature pearl chains). This type of material is called a polymer (derived from the Greek word: 'Poly', which means many, and 'Mer', which means a unit). Once we insert the skewer into the balloon, it pushes the chains aside and stretches them. The chains have an innate tendency to stick together and so they tighten around the skewer. This seals the balloon and prevents it from bursting.

This can only be done in areas of the balloon that have thicker rubber (base and top). In other places where the balloon surface is stretched, the skewer will break the connection between the polymer chains and the balloon will burst.

The box Goodies:

- Balloon
- Skewer
- Raffle ticket

