

The big...

Pop a balloon with the power of orange peel.

What you need

- Balloon
- Orange
- Vegetable peeler

How does it work?

Orange peel contains an oil called limonene. This chemical gives oranges their wonderful smell. Limonene is a hydrocarbon, which means it is composed of only carbon and hydrogen atoms. Balloons are mainly made from rubber, which is also a hydrocarbon. These two hydrocarbon substances will interact; when the limonene oil squirts onto the balloon, it weakens the rubber, causing it to break. The air in the balloon is under pressure and as it escapes the ruptured rubber casing, the air expands and creates a popping noise.

FAMILY TREE

The ancient ancestors of oranges first grew in the Himalayas – a mountain range in Asia – eight million years ago.

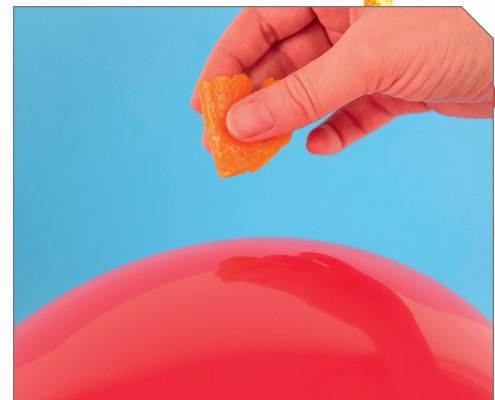
DID YOU KNOW?
The word orange comes from the Arabic *naranj*. It arrived in English in the 14th century.



1 Blow up a balloon and tie a knot to keep the air inside.



2 Using a vegetable peeler, carefully peel a thick strip of orange skin.



3 Hold the orange skin over the balloon. Fold and squeeze so that the oil sprays out. What happens?