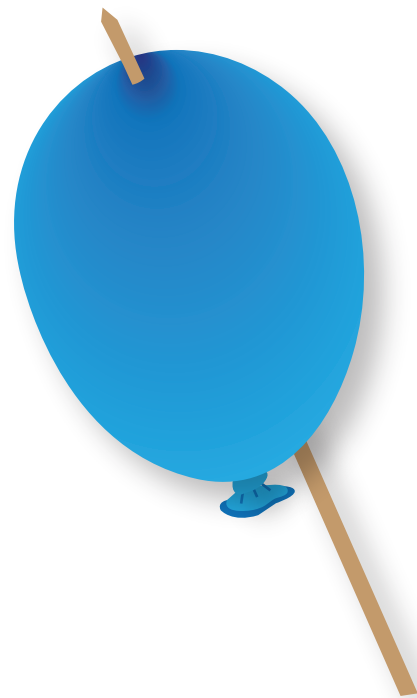


Balloon Kabob



What You Need

- 12" balloon
- Wooden bamboo skewer

What to Do

1. Prepare a balloon by filling it $\frac{3}{4}$ with air. Less air in the balloon will make the experiment easier.
2. Starting at the top of the balloon where the color is the darkest, slowly start to spin the skewer while gently pressing on the balloon. Keep spinning until the skewer goes into the balloon.
3. Slowly push the skewer to the opposite side, as close to where the knot is as possible. Spin the skewer again, applying gentle pressure until the skewer comes out the other side.

Can you make a balloon kabob?

What's Happening

The molecules or the "stuff" that makes up the polymer in the balloon are strung together in long chains. When you blow up a balloon, the chains are pulled apart on the sides and are pushed together at the top and bottom. This is the point where the balloon looks darker. If you push the skewer in at the top the little molecules push back around it. If you put the skewer on the side, the molecules pull apart and pop.

