



a WOW Lab
BLUEPRINT

Saponification

Introduction

In this activity, students will use chemistry to produce a bar of soap. They will learn about how soap—a key feature of modern hygiene—is made and how it works. When the activity is complete, they will be able to use their soap.

Students will learn about carboxylate groups, hydrophilic and hydrophobic molecules, and fatty acids. This activity also serves as a good introduction to acid-base chemistry and pH; the students will react a base and an acid to produce a salt, the soap, and can test the pH of the soap periodically as it cures.