



4-H Learn from Home Activity: Balloon Kebab

Materials Needed:

- Balloon (latex, 7-12 inches)
- Skewer (wooden)
- Petroleum jelly
- Wire cutters or strong scissors

Instructions:

Inflate the balloon to medium capacity and tie off.

Dip the sharp end of the skewer all the way into the jar of petroleum jelly and then pull it out.

Place the sharp end of the skewer against the round end of the balloon where the latex/rubber is the darkest color.

Twist the skewer back and forth rapidly between your fingers while applying some pressure to the skewer (gently stabbing the balloon). Eventually the skewer will poke through the balloon without popping it.

Push the skewer through the balloon until you reach the opposite end (the tie part of the balloon). Push the skewer, while twisting, through the end of the balloon. Voila! You have a balloon kebab.

Reflective Questions:

- What did you think would happen when you put pressure on the balloon?

- How did the balloon NOT pop?
- What other sharp objects could (SAFELY) be used to skewer the balloon?
- What would happen if you tried this on the side of the balloon instead of the end?

Extensions of this activity:

- What other recycled objects can be punctured without breaking?
- Read about the history of rubber and the history of latex.