Warm-up Activity

Fun with "Clouds"



Supplies needed: a bar (cake) of *Ivory* brand soap, disposable plate, microwave

Ivory soap expands to look like a cloud when it is microwaved. One hand-sized bar of soap is enough to do the experiment twice. This is a fun activity to spark interest in the topic of the pillar of cloud and fire.

Cut the bar of soap in half. Place one half in the center of a disposable plate. Put the plate in the microwave and microwave for about one minute. You will be able to watch through the window and stop the microwave if the soap expands off the plate. If possible, let students watch through the window as well as the "cloud" will deflate fairly quickly once you open the microwave door.

Before starting the microwave, you might want to ask students what they *think* will happen to the soap. Were they right?



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