

## Colorful Balloons

### Purpose

To illustrate the colors associated with various metal salts with a colorful balloon explosion.

### Materials

Balloon	H <sub>2</sub> Gas
Funnel	String
Petri Dish	Candle on a stick
Methanol	Matches
Chloride or Nitrate Salt of Li, Sr, Cu, Ba, K or Na	

### Procedure

1. Place a small amount of salt in petri dish
2. Mix salt with Methanol
3. Place funnel in balloon opening, and add the Methanol/salt solution to balloon
4. Being sure not to spill the solution, fill balloon with H<sub>2</sub> gas
5. Tie off balloon and attach to string
6. Light candle on the stick and carefully bring to the base of balloon. The balloon will pop, igniting the H<sub>2</sub> and the Methanol solution which will produce a colored fiery explosion

### Additional Information

1. Colors of the salts will be as follows:  
Sodium – yellow, Lithium - red, Strontium - red, Copper - blue/green, Potassium – pale violet, Barium – yellow/green.

### Disposal

Pieces from the balloons can be thrown into the trash.