RECess!
waco parks and recreation

HOPPING POPCORN SCIENCE EXPERIMENT

YOU'LL NEED:

- Clear glass container
- Popping corn kernals
- Water (2 ½ – 3 cups)
- 2 tbsp. baking soda
- 6 tbsp. white vinegar
- Food coloring (optional)

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Fill your jar with water, and add a couple drops of food coloring, if you like.
2. Add the baking soda. Stir well until completely dissolved.
3. Add a small handful of popping corn kernels.
4. Add the vinegar, and watch as the corn begins to "hop" up and down in the jar!

THE SCIENCE BEHIND IT:

- When the baking soda and vinegar combine, they react to form carbon dioxide (CO_2) gas. The gas forms bubbles in the water, which circle around the corn kernels. The bubbles then lift the kernels up to the surface. When they get to the surface, they pop and the kernels sink again. The "hopping" continues until the vinegar and baking soda have finished reacting.