**Exploding Drink**

**Supplies:**
- One (1) 2-liter bottle of Carbonated beverage (diet soda works best)
- A pack of Mentos mints
- Level surface, preferably OUTDOORS
- **OPTIONAL:** test tube and index card

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**How does it work?**
- Take Mentos and soda and find a nice level spot outdoors. Make sure the area around you is free of anything special… it will get wet and sticky!!
- Open the two-liter bottle of soda and place it on a flat surface.
- Place as many Mentos which will fit inside the test tube.
- Place the index card on the open side of the tube and turn the tube to face the bottle’s open mouth.
  - THE ONLY THING KEEPING THE MENTOS FROM FALLING INTO THE BOTTLE OF SODA IS THE INDEX CARD.
- When everyone is ready, pull the index card away and drop the Mentos into the bottle. If you don’t have a test tube and index card, try to feed them into the bottom using your hands.
- BE READY! The soda will quickly react with the Mentos, causing a soda fountain several feet tall!

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**Why does this happen?**
- Soda gets its “fizz” from a gas known as carbon dioxide. When the CO₂ is pumped into the soda, water molecules cling to the gas and create tiny bubbles of gas in the liquid. The force holding the gas inside the water is known as surface tension.
- It takes a lot of energy to break the surface tension inside the soda. Most of us have done this by dropping a can and then opening it right away.
- Mentos contains a chemical known as arabic gum—this is the ingredient that makes the mint “chewy”. This ingredient causes the surface tension of the water molecules to break even more easily, releasing more carbon dioxide at an astounding rate!
- The gas causes pressure to rapidly build inside the bottle, which thrusts the Soda upwards in a wonderful fountain-like BLAST!
- And as we all know, like a melting popsicle, melted sugar is **very sticky**! Try to use diet soda or any other carbonated beverage that does not contain sugar. Otherwise, you will be grossed out and running for a shower!

**Optional:** Discuss your experience with your classmates in the Lab Discussion board in the Module 5 menu.