

## Lesson Plan: Electric Gelatin

**Area:** Physical Science

**Age Group:** 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

### Supplies Needed:

- Balloon
- Unflavored gelatin powder
- Paper plate
- Wool scarf or sweater
- Plate

### Introduction:

- Ask students what they know about static electricity
- Examples of static electricity?
- Fill in the blank: Static electricity can \_\_\_\_\_.

### Demonstration:

- Pour the unflavored gelatin powder on a paper plate
- Rub the balloon on wool for 10 seconds
- Hold the rubbed part of the balloon above the gelatin powder, **DO NOT LET THE BALLOON TOUCH THE GELATIN**
- Slowly raise the balloon

### Directions:

- Provide each student with a small plate with the gelatin and a small balloon
- Ask students to follow your directions
- When the balloon is above the gelatin, what happens?
- After the balloon is slowly raised above the gelatin, what happens?

### Follow-up:

- Have a class discussion on what the students saw and why they think it happened
- Explain that the balloon was charged after rubbing it with the wool; it had static electricity
- The balloon then attracted the gelatin
- What other examples of static electricity?
- Brain-pop video!: <http://www.brainpop.com/science/energy/staticelectricity/>

**Source:** <http://pbskids.org/zoom/activities/sci/electricgelatin.html>