**Acid Test**

*This experiment was invented by Loralee Leavitt.  Permission obtained by Loralee Leavitt. Check out her website at* [*www.candyexperiments.com*](http://www.candyexperiments.com) *Please do not copy, sell, post, publish, or distribute all or any part of this material without her permission.*

Sour taste is the body's way of identifying acid, so if your candy tastes sour, it contains acid.



*Pixy Stix acid test:
adding baking soda causes bubbles*

To test for acid yourself, try this:

**What you need:**

* Fruit-flavored or sour candy, such as LemonHeads, Nerds, WARHEADS, or sour gummy candy
* Baking soda

**What to do:**

1. Dissolve the candy in a small amount of warm water (about a half-cup or less). For hard candy like Smarties, you may want to crush it first to make it dissolve faster.
2. Sprinkle a spoonful of baking soda into water.
3. Watch for bubbles.  If it bubbles, the candy is acidic.

**What's happening:**
When you dissolve acidic candy in water and add baking soda, the reaction produces carbon dioxide gas.  This is what makes the bubbles.

For more fun, try testing candy like Skittles, Starbursts, or Sweet Tarts.  Do these candies contain as much acid as really sour candies?

\*If the candy is taking too long to dissolve, try crushing it first.  You can also get quick results using Pixy Stix or candy covered by sour powder.

**Video results**: watch acid tests on Youtube

* [Nerds - youtube.com/watch?v=uD3-tKcB2ew](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uD3-tKcB2ew)
* [Lemonheads - youtube.com/watch?v=RcucvN8j64I](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RcucvN8j64I)
* [Pixy Stix - youtube.com/watch?v=xDt0-TG7\_3g](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xDt0-TG7_3g)
* [Air Heads - youtube.com/watch?v=LBKASovAUGM](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LBKASovAUGM)

*Explanation based on author's interview with*[*Walter Bowyer*](http://campus.hws.edu/academic/popup.asp?id=32)*, chemistry professor at Hobart and William Smith Colleges*