

LET'S DO CHEMISTRY

Chemistry Makes Scents



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Smell these mystery scents

Gently squeeze each mystery scent bottle, one at a time. Hold the bottle in front of and below your face and use your hand to blow or waft the odor toward you. Do the odors smell different or the same?

Taking a sniff from the bottle holding the coffee grounds may help to “clear your nose” between smelling the two mystery scents.

Observe mirror-images

Each of these models represents the tiny molecules that make up each mystery scent. The structure and shape of the molecule determines which scent we smell. What is the same about each model? What is different? Try holding each model in front of the mirror. What do you notice?

Take a look at your feet and hands. Are they the same? How are they different? Have you ever put a shoe on the wrong foot? What does it feel like? Does your right foot fit inside a shoe meant for your left foot? What about your hands?



Let's keep exploring! Follow the step-by-step instructions to make your own model mirror-image molecules. Try holding your models in front of the mirror, too. What do you notice?