

Meet Marion Donovan, The inventor of FLOATERS!



Supplies

*1 Disposable unused diaper
(any brand)*

Water

Scissors

*Sheet of copier style paper to
work on / Waxed Paper will do
as well*

*Paper towel or dish towel in case
it gets messy (it might)*

Recommended for ages 6+. Parental supervision required. Do not consume any materials that are released from the diaper or water used for the experiment.

Procedure

- 1** Open the diaper up and lay it out flat. Using your scissors, cut the diaper in half the long way from the back side to the front. Gently shake out the little pellet like items inside of the layers of paper fabric. After all, the inside of the diaper is a paper product, and the outer shell is plastic or a polymer product)
- 2** Collect up the granules you shook out and place them in the shallow dish.
- 3** Slowly shake droplets of water off your fingertips to the material in the shallow dish you collected. IF you have a small dropper, you can use this to add water to the material, but fingers work well in a pinch. This is called Polyacrylate and it LOVES water. You can tell because the material you collected starts to swell up holding on to the water!
- 4** Urine is a product of water you produce. That is why the diapers swell up when babies make messes.
- 5** If the water rolled off the materials and they didn't swell up, we would call this HYDROPHOBIC meaning it's not a friend of water.
- 6** When you are finished, dispose of the diaper and the materials you experimented with. Always clean up your science station at home!