

## JELLY MARBLES



**Polymers** are long chains of chemicals found almost everywhere in nature. The tiny, solid spheres in your bag are a type of polymer, called hydrogels. With just a little water they will transform into superabsorbent water marbles! Not only are these water-filled spheres fun, they teach a valuable and fun lesson about the power of polymers.

Polymers soak up water using the process of osmosis (water molecules pass through a barrier from one side to the other). When water comes in contact with the polymers, it moves from the outside the polymer to the inside and causes it to swell. The polymer chains have an elastic quality, but they can stretch only so far and hold just so much water.

**Directions:** Place these small pebbles in water and watch the magic happen. That's right - what started as a group of 3mm pebbles is about to become a group of 20mm balls of jelly.

Do you want colored jelly marbles? Save a few of your polymers for later. Simply add your choice of food coloring to the water and your polymer will do the rest!

**INTERESTED IN JOINING GIRL SCOUTS?**  
Please visit [gsewni.org](http://gsewni.org) or [facebook.com/girlscouting](https://facebook.com/girlscouting).



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*The learning pyramid shows that people retain about 5% of information by hearing about it, 10% by reading about it, 30% by seeing it, and 75% by doing it themselves. When kids get their hands on exciting activities, it can inspire them to learn.*

**77%** of girls say that, because of Girl Scouts, they are considering a career in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, & Mathematics).



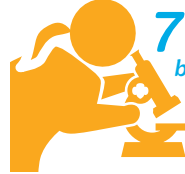
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