

What Does an Antacid Do?

MATERIALS

For each group

- antacid tablets, several varieties
- beakers, 150 to 200 mL (2)
- litmus paper, blue
- litmus paper, red
- spoon
- vinegar
- water, 200 mL
- wax paper

SAFETY



PROCEDURE

1. Pour 100 mL of water into one beaker. Add vinegar one drop at a time while stirring. Test the solution with litmus paper after each drop is added. Use the table below to record the number of drops it takes for the solution to turn blue litmus paper bright red.
2. Use the back of a spoon to crush an antacid tablet to a fine powder on a piece of wax paper. Pour 100 mL of water into a second beaker, add the powdered tablet, and stir until a suspension forms.
3. Use litmus paper to find out whether the mixture is acidic, basic, or neutral. Record your results.
4. Now, add vinegar to the antacid mixture. Record the number of drops that you add to cause a reaction with the antacid and turn the blue litmus paper bright red. Compare this solution with the solution that has only vinegar and water. Compare the brand of antacid that you tested with the brands of other groups.

	Number of drops of vinegar to turn litmus paper red
Water alone	
Water and antacid	

What Does an Antacid Do? *continued*

ANALYSIS

1. How does an antacid work to relieve the pain caused by excess stomach acid?

2. Of the brands that were tested, which brand worked the best? Explain your reasoning.
