

Dear Jax,
 When you suck a sucker, does more come off when you lick it or suck it??
 Cassie Barnes
 Milwaukee, Wisconsin

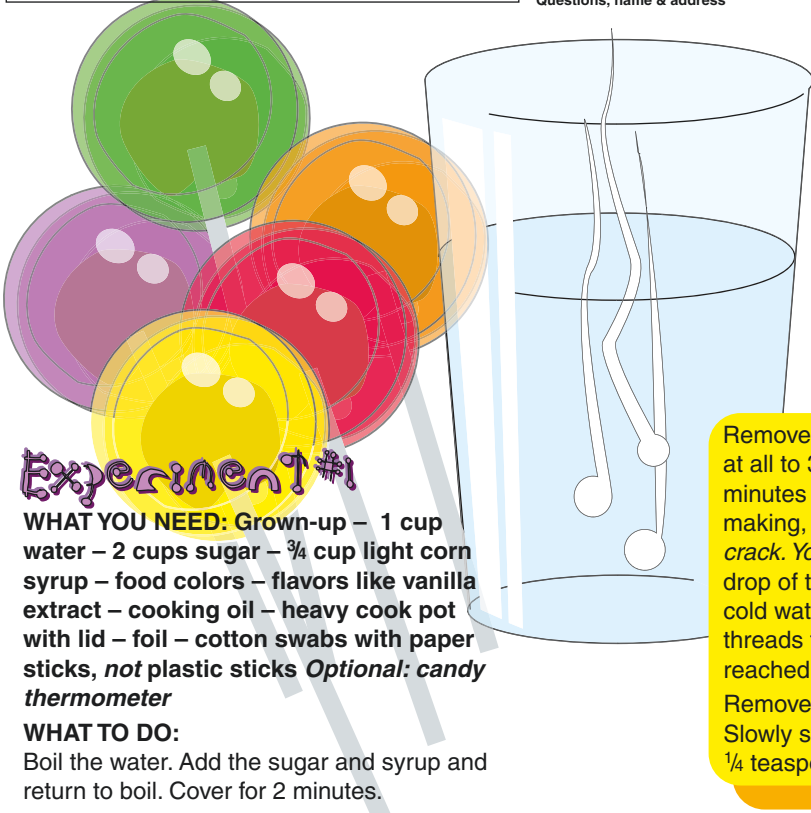
Beakman or Jax
 P.O. Box 30177
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 Questions, name & address

Dear Cassie,
 Yes. No. I mean, sometimes. It all depends on the *variables* – the things that change, experiment-to-experiment. *Vary* is another way of saying *change*, and things like friction from your tongue or sucking speed vary. And that can change the answer.

We took between 432 and 537 licks to get the the chocolate center of a Tootsie Pop™. By the time we tried sucking them, we had run out of suckers. So, I suggest you conduct *research* and find out which is faster for *you*. But, like they say in commercials, your results may *vary*.
 In the meantime, **if you absolutely have a grown-up helper, you can make a lollipop or chupa** for those tests.

Jax Place
 Jax Place

Believe it or not, you can actually buy a meter that will count the number of licks you take on a sucker. Find it at www.BaronBob.com/lick.



Experiment #1

WHAT YOU NEED: Grown-up – 1 cup water – 2 cups sugar – ¾ cup light corn syrup – food colors – flavors like vanilla extract – cooking oil – heavy cook pot with lid – foil – cotton swabs with paper sticks, *not* plastic sticks *Optional: candy thermometer*

WHAT TO DO:
 Boil the water. Add the sugar and syrup and return to boil. Cover for 2 minutes.

Remove cover and boil with no stirring at all to 310°. This will take about 10-15 minutes of hard boiling. In candy-making, this temperature is called *hard crack*. *You Can* test for it by dropping a drop of the mixture into a glass of ice-cold water. If the sugar makes long threads that crack, your mixture has reached *hard crack*.
 Remove it from the heat immediately. Slowly stir in 2 drops of the colors and ¼ teaspoon of the flavor extracts you

choose.
 Use a paper towel to *lightly* oil a piece of foil. Carefully pour a tiny bit of the hot mixture onto the foil. Clip the cotton off the swabs and ask your grown-up to lay the tip in the pool of melted sugar. Repeat for the next lollipops.
 Let it cool for a whole 90 minutes. Gently peel the foil off the back. Then lick or suck and keep track of it!

P.S. from Beakman: When we find out something from directly doing or seeing it, we call it *empirical* research (m-PEER-a-ku), and that counts for counting licks or sucks, too.