

# Cook up bioplastic decorations

Make your own eco-friendly ornaments.

## How does it work?

Bioplastic is a type of eco-friendly plastic that is made from plant or animal products. Most mass-produced plastics are made from oil. Plastics are substances made up of long-chain molecules, called polymers, linked together. Gelatin is a natural substance that contains long molecules, which unravel when heated. As it cools, these chains link together, trapping water molecules to make a jelly-like material. In this experiment, however, you add lots of gelatin in a small amount of water to create a hard material. Treated carefully, your decorations can last for years.



1 Pour the gelatin into a bowl and add the water. Pop it in the microwave for 30 seconds.



2 Stir the gelatin until it has dissolved completely. Add a few drops of food colouring. You can use any festive colour you like. Stir to mix.

## What you need

- Bowl
- 3 packets of gelatin (or a vegan alternative)
- 75ml hot water
- Food colouring
- Spoon
- Pipette (optional)
- Silicone moulds
- Ribbon
- Glue

## TOP TIP!

Leave your decorations to harden outside the moulds for about two days.



3 Pipette, or carefully pour, the mixture into your festive silicone moulds. You could add eco-glitter at this stage. Allow to set for about five days.



## DID YOU KNOW?

Bioplastics are often made from corn or sugar.



4 Attach a loop of ribbon to your bioplastic decorations using glue, so you can hang your eco-friendly decorations on the tree.