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# The Famous Feud of Mason Jar Gulch

## Materials

clear jar with a  
screw-top lid filled  
half-full with water  
cooking oil  
liquid detergent  
spoon

## Presentation Idea

Turn your liquid detergent bot-  
tle into the sheriff with a  
badge cut from aluminum foil  
and handlebar moustache  
made out of yarn or construc-  
tion paper.

## Explanation

The molecules of oil stick together,  
and when added to water form a  
separate layer that floats. The soap  
surrounds the oil droplets, and traps  
them so they can't join together.  
This forces them to be distributed  
and suspended in the water.

## Directions

1. Pour oil into the water  
at designated inter-  
vals, cap and shake.
2. Squirt in liquid  
detergent.
3. Stir with spoon.



# The Famous Feud of Mason Jar Gulch

**M**ason Jar Gulch is now a peaceful town. But the people still talk about a famous feud that took place there many years ago.

On the south side of town lived a family named Waterbottom. They were the largest, most respected family in Mason Jar Gulch. *(Pour some oil in the jar of water and wait a moment for it to rise to the top.)*

On the north side of town lived a family named Oiltop. The Oiltops were a slippery bunch, but they kept to themselves.

Then one day the Oiltops decided to visit the other side of town. *(Stir oil and water with the spoon.)* They rode down south and met up with the Waterbottoms. Well, the chemistry just wasn't right between these two, and the minute they saw each other things got messy.

"Oiltops! We don't want you here," Papa Waterbottom yelled. "Get back where you belong!"

The Oiltops quickly rode back up to the north part of town.

Pa Oiltop paced back and forth. "They can't bully us like that," he said. "Let's slide on back down there and show them who's boss." *(Stir oil and water with the spoon.)*

Again, the Oiltops rode down to the south side of Mason Jar Gulch.

"Oh, you're slick," said Papa Waterbottom. "Think you can come down here and take over, huh? Well forget it!"

The Waterbottoms again ran the Oiltops away from their part of town.



The Oiltops were furious. "The Waterbottoms may be a respected family in this community, but we have rights, too," Pa Oiltop said. "Come on, let's fry 'em!"

But the Waterbottoms were also having a meeting. "You know the Oiltops won't stop without a fight," Papa Waterbottom said. "When they come back, we'll be ready. We'll boil 'em!" *(Screw the lid on the jar.)*

When the Oiltops rode back down, it caused a great ruckus. *(Shake the jar to mix oil and water.)* The whole town was shaken up. But the Waterbottoms and the Oiltops could not dissolve their differences. *(Set the jar down so the oil and water will separate again.)*

Fear spread through Mason Jar Gulch. Folks were jittery and on edge. They knew the Oiltops were planning the right moment to strike, and the Waterbottoms were waiting for them. Something had to be done.

That's when Sheriff Suds rode in. *(Hold up detergent bottle.)* "I aim to clean up this town," he said. *(Take the lid off the jar.)*

Sheriff Suds waited. The Waterbottoms were steaming on their side of town. The Oiltops were sizzling on theirs. When things got too hot to handle, they struck again. *(Stir quickly with the spoon.)*

"Oh no, you don't," said Sheriff Suds. "Take this!" *(Squirt a stream of detergent into the oil and water, screw on the lid and shake vigorously.)*

The whole town went topsy-turvy. It was not a pleasant sight. *(Set the jar down and take off the lid.)* But in the end the Oiltops broke down. "We shouldn't have tried to take over the south side of town," they cried.

"No, it's our fault," sobbed the Waterbottoms. "We shouldn't have tried to drown you out!"

After that, the Waterbottoms and the Oiltops mixed and mingled. And they lived happily together in the shining town of Mason Jar Gulch.

