

# Making S'mores with a Solar Oven

## a 4-H STEM lesson



**Objective:** To understand the use of solar energy by using it to cook

**Age Ranges:** All Ages

**Hands-on Activity:** Cooking with your solar oven

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## Introduction

Now that you have created your very own solar oven, it's time to put it to use. S'more is a contraction formed from "some more", because you are going to ask for more after tasting this classic American treat. The first published s'more recipe was published in *Tramping and Trailing* in 1927, giving the Girl Scouts credit for the recipe.

## Materials

Solar Oven (refer to Solar Oven lesson)  
Graham crackers  
Large marshmallows  
Thin chocolate or peanut butter chocolate bars

## Activity Instructions

1. Preheat the solar oven by placing it in full sunlight.
2. While oven is preheating, break a graham cracker in half to make two squares and place on a paper plate or a metal pan.
3. Place chocolate square on graham cracker and top with a marshmallow.
4. Close the plastic wrap on the solar oven and prop up the flap using your dowel or ruler, so that the foil-covered lid reflects the sunlight into the box and onto the s'more.
5. Cook time will depend on temperature, cloud cover, and the direct sunlight that shines in the oven. Usually marshmallows will take around thirty minutes to get soft.
6. When the marshmallow is soft, place another graham cracker square on top of the marshmallow, and press down gently.
7. Carefully take the plate out of the solar oven and let cool for a few minutes before eating.

Bonus Fun: Experiment with other ingredients. Try using different cookie or cracker bases, and different candy.

## Reflective Questions

- What other types of food do you think you could cook in your Solar Oven?
- Would the results be different based on the season of the year or on a cloudy day?

## Conclusion

Do you want s'more? We warned you!

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