

Let The Sparks Fly

For this experiment you will need **wintergreen mints**. The sugar-free variety won't work.

We will be asking you chew the mints so proceed with extreme caution if you have braces or have had other dental work done.



At nighttime, some things become visible that were not visible in daylight.

1. Find a very dark spot either outside or inside.
2. Enlist a partner.
3. You want your mouth to be as dry as possible. Try sucking air into your mouth to dry it out.
4. Stand across from your partner in the dark and chew your wintergreen mint with your mouth open (yes, we said it)!
5. Your partner should see sparks in your mouth as you chew!

Sparks Explained

When you chew the wintergreen mint, the sugar crystals in the mint break. When they break, they emit a weak burst of ultra-violet energy. This energy excites molecules in the wintergreen oil and causes the oil to glow (wintergreen is fluorescent).



Discover the Night
with the Albany Pine Bush

