

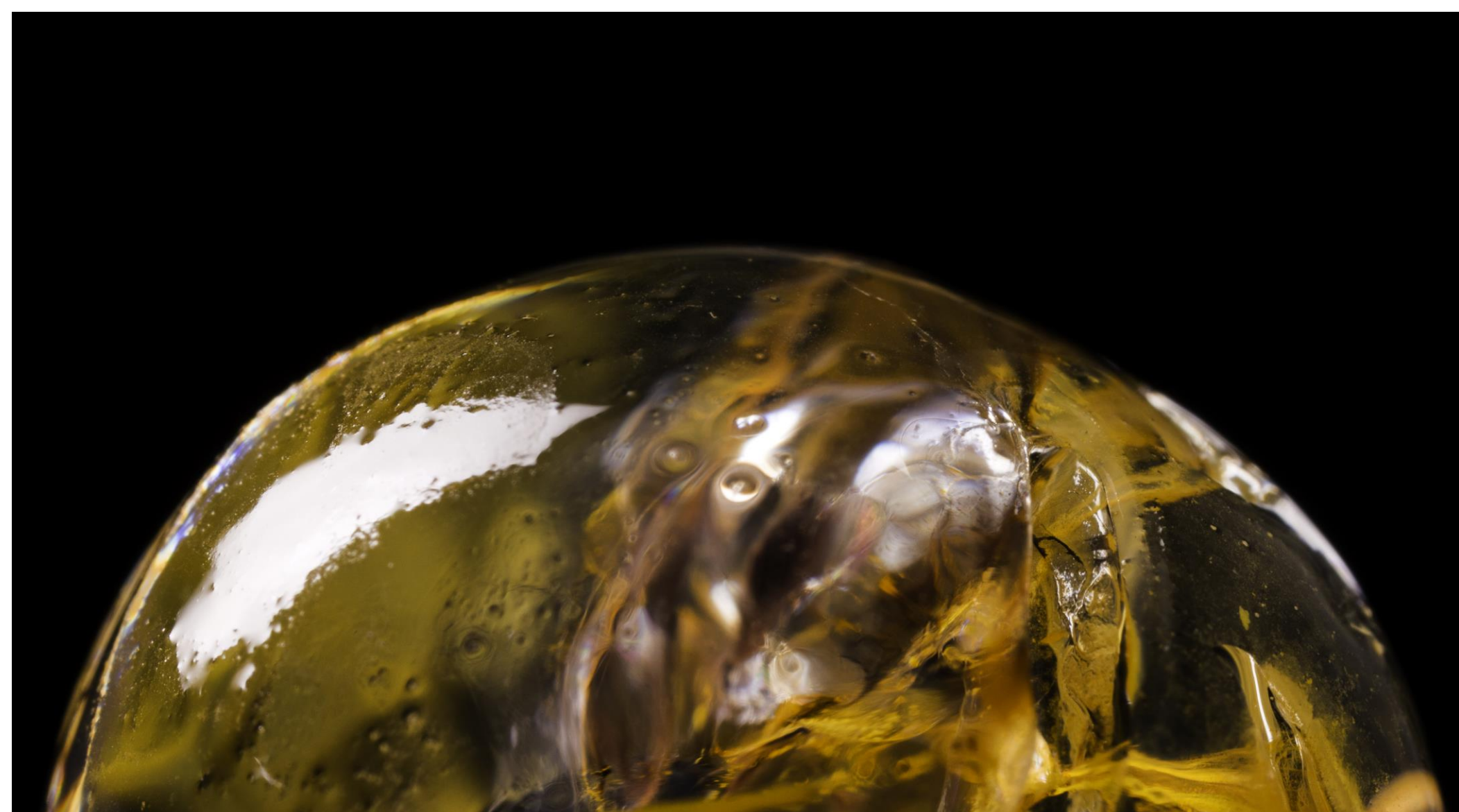
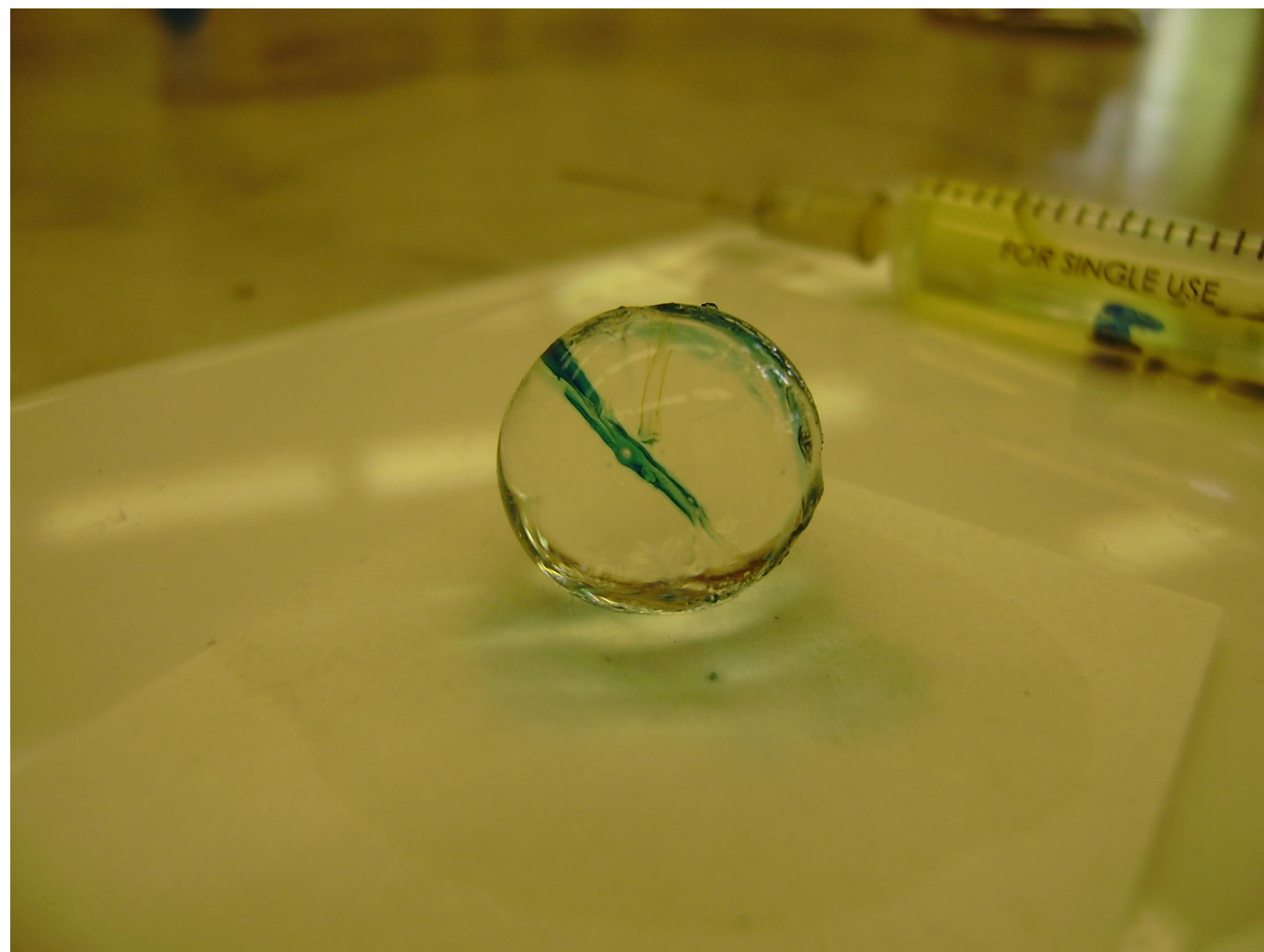
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Small is beautiful I.

Microscale chemistry in the classroom

Hydrogel balls shrink as they dry out and swell up again when they are placed in water. As they swell up they retain their spherical shape, thus forming an aqueous bead in which chemical reactions can take place.

The solutions of the participating reagents can be injected into a hydrogel ball using a hypodermic needle. Due to the hydrogel ball's spherical shape it acts as a magnifying lens and can make the reaction more visible.



Precipitation reactions in hydrogel balls



Learn how to carry out microscale experiments for greener chemistry teaching – and less washing up.



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