How do candles burn?

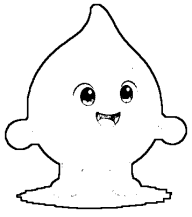
Look, Grandpa! A candle! How do candles burn?



Why?

1. **The flame melts the wax.**
   First, a grown-up lights the string in the middle. It's called the wick. The flame is hot. It melts the wax right under it, into a little pool of melted wax.
2. **The wax climbs the wick.**
   Then the melted wax climbs up the wick. The wick soaks it up, just like a paper towel soaks up water.
3. **Wax gas is what burns.**
   At the top, the flame heats the melted wax so much that it turns into a gas. You can't see the gas. But that gas is what burns! The flame needs air, too. No air, no flame!

Color Waxy too!



Try it! Find the wax pool

You need: a grown-up and a lit candle

1. With a grown-up, look for the little pool of melted wax under the flame.
2. Never touch the flame or the hot wax!

What happened? The flame melts the wax right under it.

Video + more questions:
whywhywhykids.com/candle

scan with a grown-up