

Glass is a major part of everyone's life, as it is used for the majority of the things we use in our day-to-day lives, including in our homes, cars, and electronics. Although everyone interacts with this solid almost every day, not many people know much about it. I first learned about glass and its discovery in the third or fourth grade. I was fascinated by how a solid could be transparent and shocked when I heard that such a unique material is created naturally. When my teacher explained that it can naturally occur when lightning strikes sand, I didn't want to believe it and wanted to witness this phenomenon for myself. I pictured myself on the beach during a lightning storm. Suddenly, the lightning struck the sand. I closed my eyes in fear of the sudden lightning so close. I opened my eyes, and a perfect sheet of glass appeared where the lightning struck the sand. As a child, this is what I pictured when I thought of how glass was created. Now, I know that glass obviously does not naturally get created in perfect sheets, but I am still fascinated that such a phenomenon leads to the creation of glass as a result.

This year in AP Chemistry, we read about glass and its properties as a solid for an assignment. My fascination resurfaced, and I really enjoyed learning more about glass at a higher level and in the context of what we were learning about in the class. I thought that glass blowing was very unique and cool since most other materials such as steel or clay, have to be molded by hand rather than being able to create desired shapes by blowing into melted glass.

Glass is a very important component of our daily lives, as its specific qualities allow us to use it for various purposes that require properties that only glass has. For example, it is used for flasks and other tools in labs as it is strong and very heat-resistant, and therefore is convenient for storing and mixing acids or hot fluids, and is also good for heating up substances. It is also very useful in our homes as it can be used as a pan, since the glass will not melt in the oven. It is also used as a window because it lets in the sunlight and allows us to see outside while keeping out the cold and other uncomfortable weather conditions.

If I could witness any scientific discovery, I would like to witness the discovery of glass because its properties, creation, and uses have always fascinated me. It is also a major part of our lives that has allowed us to have countless other discoveries, do experiments in labs, build homes, create good transportation, and create electronics.