

Awe and Wonder

Cornflour Slime

You will need:



A large bowl



200ml water



Food colouring

200-300g cornflour

Aprons

Large covered table or area where mess is not a problem



Method:

1. Pour the cornflour into the bowl.
2. Pour the water in, mixing slowly as you go. Keep adding more water until the mixture becomes thick (and hardens when you tap on it).
3. Add a few drops of food colouring to make your slime the colour you want it.
4. Put your hands in the slime and experiment with handling it.
5. What happens when you pick the slime up, squeeze it or even punch or slap it?
6. Do you think it is a solid or a liquid?
7. How is it different to water?



The Science

The slime is a non-Newtonian liquid which means it is different to 'normal' liquids. It gets thicker when it is pushed or pressed down. The cornflour is not actually dissolved in the water so when pressure is put on the mixture, the water molecules are pushed away. Other non-Newtonian liquids react in different ways to pressure. Tomato ketchup gets runnier if you shake it. If you whip cream for a long time, it gets thicker and thicker.

Photo courtesy of josh hallett (@flickr.com) - granted under creative commons licence - attribution