

Play at Powerhouse make & do activity kit

Science with Zoe & Cogs - Experiment 2

Is it a solid or a liquid?

Explore the amazing properties of cornflour by simply adding water and make your own cornflour slime!



Things you need:

mixing bowl
2 cups of cornflour
wooden spoon
water
5 drops of food colouring

What to do:

1 Pour 2 cups of cornflour into a plastic mixing bowl and stir in small amounts of water & the food colouring until the cornflour has become a very thick paste.

2 Stir your cornflour "slime" very slowly. This shouldn't be hard to do.

3 Stir your slime very fast. This should be almost impossible.

4 Now punch your slime really hard and fast. It should feel like you're punching a solid. Your hand should stay clean.

5 Very slowly dunk your hands into the slime and they should get coated in slime!

6 Try picking up some slime into the palm of your hands and roll it into a ball, then stop and see what happens. Experiment with your cornflour slime! Have fun!

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What's going on?

When things flow we call them a fluid. The runniness of most liquids stays the same when you stir them just like water and honey. But cornflour slime doesn't act the same way as other fluids. It gets thicker when you stir it and turns back to it's runnier state when the stirring stops.

When cornflour slime is punched, the cornflour particles lock together and the slime feels like a solid. The particles of cornflour are very jagged in shape. This makes it hard for the particles to slip past each other quickly. When the slime is moved more slowly, the cornflour particles have time to roll over each other and the mixture flows like a fluid.

What else do you see?

Use this space to write about, and draw anything else you noticed while doing this experiment.