

Teacher input

Ask the children to tell you what a solid is? How do they know something is solid?

Record their thoughts and ask them if they have any questions about solids. Do the same for liquids and gases. Then share the PowerPoint (in the resources pack), which describes changing states. There will be opportunities for discussion as you move through the slides.

Stop at the slide which explains how to make gloopy slime.

Resources

- Cornflour (six boxes for a class of 30)
- Washing-up bowl of water per table
- Paper towels

Per pair:

- Bowl or plastic container for mixing
- Spoon
- Small pot of water

Activity

This is a messy, hands-on activity which will require the children to be sensible while having fun experimenting. To minimise the amount of mess, place a washing-up bowl of warm water and some paper towels in the middle of each table so the children can easily wash their hands after the experiment.

In pairs, the children will read the instructions to make gloopy slime. Tell them to add only small amounts of water as they mix.

Stop the children at intervals and ask them to describe their slime. What's happening? Is it a solid or a liquid? Does it feel any different

when they run their fingers through it slowly and more quickly? Can they make it into a ball?



National curriculum links

- Compare and group materials together according to whether they are solids, liquids or gases.

Learning objective

- I can say if a material is a liquid or a solid and give reasons why.

Working scientifically links

- Ask relevant questions and report on findings.

Plenary

Display the PowerPoint slide that asks the question; Do you think it is a solid or a liquid?

Collect the children's thoughts, asking them to prove their answers by giving a reason. For example, they might say: 'I think it's a liquid because it forms a pool as it runs through my fingers.'

Click through the PowerPoint and share Y's explanation and the paragraph below.



You should find that the slime feels like a liquid when you move your fingers slowly around. You might have been able to make a solid ball in your hands, but as soon as you stop rolling it, it will dribble through your fingers like a liquid – weird!

Cornflour is an odd material. It behaves like both a liquid and a solid. Scientists call materials which act in this way 'non-Newtonian fluids'.

