Student Activity — Slime!

H'okay... ready to make that slime?

You will need:

- Measuring cup
- Spoon
- Bowl
- Cornflour
- Food colouring

What to do:

1. Use the dry measuring jug to measure one cup of cornflour, then tip it into the mixing bowl.
2. Now measure half a cup of water with your measuring cup.
3. Pour a few drops of food colouring into the water.
4. Pour the coloured water into the bowl with the cornflour, and carefully mix it in with the spoon.
5. Stir your slime REALLY slowly. This shouldn't be hard to do.
6. Stir your slime REALLY fast. This should be almost impossible.
7. Now punch your slime REALLY hard and fast. It should feel like you're punching a solid. Can you roll it into a ball?

Why our slime is special...

Anything that flows is called a fluid. This means that both gases and liquids are fluids.

Fluids like water which flow easily are said to have low viscosity, whereas fluids like cold honey which do not flow so easily are said to have a high viscosity.

Slime is a special type of fluid that doesn't follow the usual rules of fluid behaviour. When a pressure is applied to slime, its viscosity increases and the slime becomes thicker. At a certain point, slime actually seems to lose all its flow and behave like a solid.

You can also experience the same thing when you visit the beach... If you stand just at the edge of the water where the waves wash up, and slowly wriggle your toes, you sink in right? So the sand is acting like a fluid. When you run along the same area of the beach the sand feels really hard, so then it's acting like a solid.