



It's Slime Time!

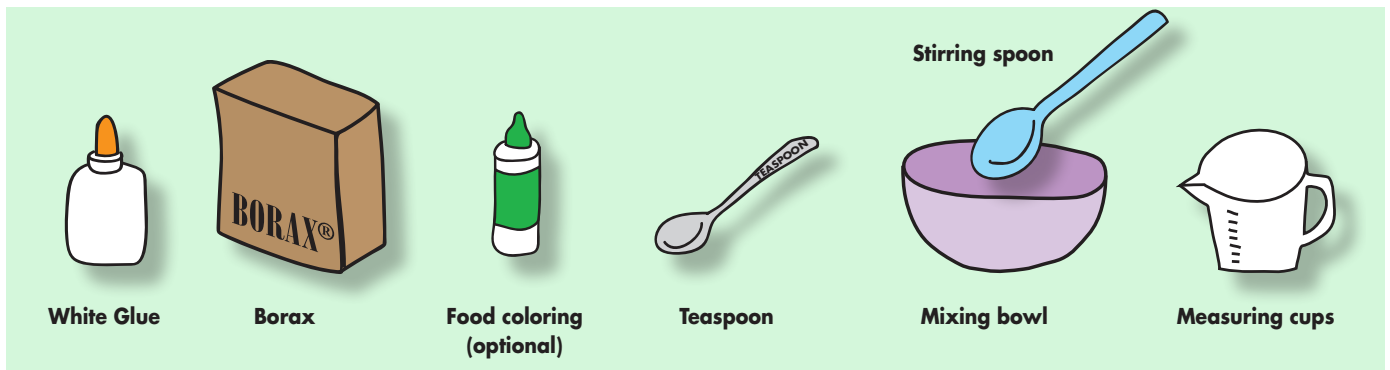
Watch Christopher Viney cook up a batch of slime on the [Bio-Inspired Designs Latest Updates](#) page.

Find What You Need..

- White Glue
- Borax®
- Food coloring (optional)
- Teaspoon
- Stirring spoon
- Mixing bowl
- Measuring cups

Important:

Find a grown-up who doesn't fear slime and ask them to help you. Make sure you all wash your hands before and after the activity.



Why would scientists want to study snot?

You probably don't want to even think about mucus unless you have a cold, but this slimy stuff is working for you all the time. Mucus in your stomach helps you digest your food, and helps prevent you from digesting your own stomach! Scientists are studying the super-snot made by giraffes, which allows thorny leaves to pass harmlessly down their long throats and through their digestive systems. And they're looking at snail slime, which protects snail bellies from rough surfaces and leaves a trail that other snails can follow.

Scientists collect samples of different kinds of mucus to learn what they're made of. Someday this knowledge could be used to help people with digestive problems or to make

environmentally-friendly grease to keep machine parts working. See whether you can imagine any uses for the slime you're about to make.

Fact:

When you follow our slime recipe, you'll be setting off a chemical reaction that will create long molecules called polymers.

Activity Instructions

1. Put about 2 teaspoons of Borax into a 1/4 cup measuring cup. Fill the cup almost to the top with water and stir. Set aside.
2. Fill a one-cup measuring cup with glue. Pour it into the bowl. No need to wash the cup.
3. Now, fill the one-cup measuring cup with water. Pour the water into the bowl and stir.
4. If you're using food coloring, add a few drops to the glue-water mixture and stir until the color is evenly mixed.
5. Stir the Borax solution in the cup once more and pour it into the bowl. Dig in and get slimy – your hands may be the best stirring tool for this job! Is it slime yet? How does it feel?



Conclusions

At which step in your experiment did a chemical reaction occur? Describe the properties of your slime: Is it sticky? Stretchy? Does it keep its shape when you form a ball? Can you think of any uses for your slime?

Brain Buster:

How would you change your slime if you could? Would you like it to be stickier, stretchier, slimier?

Experiment with changing the recipe to see how you can change your slime.



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