

HOME/SCHOOL CONNECTION

Investigation 1: Separating Mixtures

Make a mixture known as oobleck.

Materials

- 1 Mixing bowl
- 1 Spoon
- 1 Measuring cup
- Cornstarch
- Water

Directions

1. Put about 1 cup of cornstarch in a mixing bowl.
2. Slowly add water to make a mixture, stirring as you go.
3. When the cornstarch is all wet, it will turn into oobleck.

Things to find out

Explore the properties of oobleck.

- Is it a solid or a liquid?
- What happens when you place solids, such as coins or spoons, on the surface?
- What happens when you try to push your hand gently into the oobleck? When you try to push your hand hard and fast into the oobleck?
- Pick up a handful of oobleck. Can you hold it?
- Can you cut a ribbon of oobleck with scissors?
- What happens to the properties of oobleck when you change the amounts of the two ingredients in the mixture? More water? More cornstarch?

NOTE: If you want to keep oobleck so that you can work with it another day, store it in a covered container in the refrigerator.