PIECING TOGETHER

STEM

ACTIVITY: MAKING GOOP

FOR AGES: 5-15, or as developmentally appropriate

ESTIMATED TIME: 1-2 hours

STEM AREA: Science (Chemistry). You will notice the slime is hard when you apply pressure, and liquid when it sits. This is a polymer! Other examples of polymers are nail polish or paint.

CAREER OPTIONS: Research Scientist, Research Assistant, Research Technician, Pharmacy Assistant, Chemical Engineer

INSTRUCTIONS:

ITEMS NEEDED:

1 cup corn starch
1/3 cup water
Mixing bowl
Clean, level countertop to spread goop out

PROCEDURE:

1. Pour 1cup of corn starch into a mixing bowl.
2. Pour 1/3cup of water into the mixing bowl.
3. Using your hands, mix the two together
(note: the corn starch will not completely dissolve into the water, the consistency of the mix should feel like heavy glue. If it is too runny, add more corn starch. If it is too thick, add more water)
4. Using your hands, take the goop out of the mixing bowl and let it drip through your fingers onto the hard, flat countertop.

PIECING TOGETHER

STEM

The goop will be solid against the pressure of the countertop or your hands, but liquid as it falls from your fingers.

OTHER OPTIONS:

Add 1-2 Tablespoons of glitter to the goop

Use food coloring to add or mix colors to the goop

Add extra corn starch (2-3 tablespoons at a time) to change the texture and feel of the goop. At some point, the mixture will become unbalanced and stop acting like a polymer. When this happens just add more water and it will return to the original feel.

MORE CHEMISTRY IF YOU LIKE THIS:

- Glue and borax slime
- Baking soda and vinegar volcanoes
- Crystalized sugar candy making
- Chemistry sets
- Visit a science center such as the Phoenix Science Center