

Oobleck Tar Pits

Make It:

Do this outside or in the bathtub. It will clean up/rinse with just water, but Oobleck is too much fun to be contained.

In a large, shallow bin or bowl:

Dump 2 boxes corn starch

Pour 2 cups water

(optional) Add a few drops of food coloring

Mix it up (Use spatula to help mix)

The texture will change the more you mix and play with it. If it is too dry, add a small splash of water at a time, it does not take much.

Play with it:

Add plastic animals or cars and see how they get stuck

Shape it into a ball and watch it melt

Cut it with a plastic knife

When finished playing, fill a bucket with water and give the toys and tools (and kids) a "bath".

The Science

Is it a solid? Is it a liquid?

It is a non-newtonian fluid. A non-newtonian fluid is dependent on its surface. It is always seeking a surface to flatten itself. A quick tap makes it feel hard because the force pushes the particles together. A slow movement gives the particles time to move out of the way.

Wizard's Brew

Make It:

Do this outside, or contain inside a cake pan. It will bubble over out of the jar a lot.

In a jar:

Pour some vinegar

Squeeze some soap

(Optional: add food coloring and/or glitter)

Dump a scoop of baking soda and stir

Play With It:

Turn it into a potion mixing station with small cups of colored water/tea/juice to pour back and forth. Use a dropper, add grass or other bits.

The Science

Baking soda and vinegar makes gas bubbles. Adding dish soap makes it REALLY bubbly. The bubbles expand with gas and push each other out. Once all the gas escapes, it stops bubbling.

