

OOBLECK: A Scientific Method Activity

MATERIALS: Oobleck powder in weigh boat (or 1 Tbs cornstarch)
7.5 mL Oobleck solution (or 1.5 tsp water)
Wood popsicle stick or metal spoon

PROCEDURE:

1. Add 7.5 mL of the oobleck solution to the oobleck powder in the weigh boat. Stir very slowly with the popsicle stick.
2. Stir and/or swirl the oobleck gently by hand in the weigh boat until the mixture is smooth and can flow from the weigh boat back into the cup, but is solid to the touch.
 - Be prepared to add a few more drops of oobleck solution or a bit more oobleck powder if the substance is too dry or too runny.
3. Clean up: **DO NOT POUR OOBLECK DOWN THE SINK!** When you're finished, pull up the plastic wrap, wrap it all up and throw everything in the jumbo yellow garbage can.

OBSERVATIONS: Take only **2 minutes** to make at least 3 quick observations of the oobleck:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

HYPOTHESIS: What state of matter is oobleck? Begin your hypothesis with "Based on my observations...."

EXPERIMENT:

1. Tap the oobleck sharply and quickly with your finger, then tap it slowly. How does it behave? Does your finger sink?
2. Use the stick to stir the oobleck quickly, then slowly. How does it behave?
3. Place a paper clip on a puddle of oobleck. Does it sink or float?
4. Try to cut a piece of the oobleck with the stick. What happens?

CONCLUSION: In the space below, use your observations and experimental results to form a theory about what the state of matter oobleck is. Begin with "Based on my observations and experimental results" and then LIST at least 3 reasons.