

# Challenge Card Slime

## Suited to Section



Joey Scouts



Cub Scouts



Scouts



Venturer Scouts



Rover Scouts

## Challenge Area



COMMUNITY



PERSONAL GROWTH



OUTDOORS



CREATIVE

## Key SPICES growth



SOCIAL



PHYSICAL



INTELLECTUAL



CHARACTER



EMOTIONAL



SPIRITUAL

## Likely Scout Method elements



COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT



LEARNING BY DOING



NATURE AND THE OUTDOORS



PATROL SYSTEM



PERSONAL PROGRESSION



PROMISE AND LAW



SYMBOLIC FRAMEWORK



YOUTH LEADING, ADULTS SUPPORTING

## Summary statement

Help your Unit or Patrol make slime and experiment with it to explore chemical reactions and the properties of non-Newtonian fluids.

# Challenge Card Slime

## Plan

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1. Think about what type of slime you want to make. There are two main popular types of slime, one is made using cornflour and is sometimes called ooblek, the other type of slime uses the chemical reaction between borax (sodium tetraborate) and PVA (polyvinylalcohol) to form polymers. There are lots of variations of recipes for making both these types of slime, have a look around and find one you like.
2. Complete a risk assessment for this activity. Consider the safety tips below and pay close attention to any warnings on the labels of your slime reactants.
3. Check that the slime instructions you have chosen work. Sometimes using slightly different reactants can stop the reaction from working properly so make sure your ingredients work.
4. Slime is special because it is a non-Newtonian fluid. Watch this video to find out more about what this means so you can explain to everyone else why the Science of slime is so cool. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fnd-2jetT1w>
5. How much equipment and chemicals will you need so that everyone can make slime? Will everyone be making their own or will you be sharing? Be prepared for a lot of mess to clean up too.

## Do

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1. Run through the instructions and safety advice with everyone and then go ahead and make your slime.
2. Try some of the variations suggested below to explore your slime.
3. Keep a record of what you have done. Take some photos and take note of any variations that have been made to the original recipe.

## Review

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1. Did your slime behave the way you expected? Why or why not?
2. What did you enjoy the most about making the slime? What did you learn?
3. If you were to do this activity again what would you do the same? What would you do differently?

# Challenge Card Slime

## Safety

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- Just because you can buy something off the shelf at your local supermarket doesn't automatically mean it is safe. Always pay attention to the warnings on the product. Borax (sodium tetraborate) is a Category 1B hazardous substance. If you are using borax in your slime you should make sure an adult helps you read the Safety Data Sheet <https://shop.chemsupply.com.au/documents/SL0371CH6U.pdf> for this chemical and consider the appropriate safety precautions for its use.
- Some people might have allergies or sensitivities to different chemicals. Check before you start whether anyone has known allergies you need to be aware of. Make sure there is an adult prepared to provide First Aid if anyone does have an unexpected reaction.
- One hazard to consider is that small children or animals might accidentally eat slime. If you are letting people take slime home provide them with a safe storage option and warn them about the hazards of leaving slime lying around.

## Variations

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There are lots of things you can do to experiment with slime.

- You could test the viscosity (thickness), the elasticity (stretchiness) or compare how the slime behaves at different temperatures.
- Try experimenting by changing the amounts that you use of different ingredients. How does changing or adding one ingredient affect the properties of the slime?
- What games could you play with slime? Maybe you could race your slime down a ramp or have a competition to see whose slime can hang from something for the longest.
- How creative can you be with the appearance of your slime? Try adding colour, glitter, powders, sequins etc. to individualise your slime.