

MYSTERIOUS GLOOP

Water is a liquid. Rock is a solid. But what is gloop?

MATERIALS:

Borax laundry detergent, white glue, water, measuring teaspoon and tablespoon, mixing spoon, 2 bowls, plastic sandwich bags, food coloring

HOW TO:

1. Measure 5 tablespoons of water and mix into a bowl along with 1 teaspoon of Borax laundry detergent. Stir the mixture until it is dissolved.
2. In a separate bowl, stir together 1 tablespoon of water and 1 tablespoon of white glue (add food coloring for more fun!).
3. Measure 2 teaspoons of the mixture in the first bowl, then add it to the mixture in the second bowl and stir them together.
4. Stop stirring when your mixture feels lumpy. Now take it out of the bowl and massage it with your hands for 1 to 2 minutes.
5. You have gloop! Does it stretch? Does it bounce? Can you mold it? Observe how the consistency changes.

HOW IT WORKS:

Matter comes in all shapes and sizes, from solid to liquid to gas. But what in the world is gloop? Believe it or not, gloop is a kind of plastic. Plastics are polymers. A polymer is a kind of material that behaves as both a liquid and a solid. They're made up of chains of large molecules that make materials stretchy and pliable. Some polymers are stronger, like plastic bottles. Others have more elasticity, like gum. See if you can come up with your own list of polymers!

