

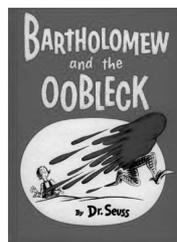
A STEM in the Park

Take Home Activity

STEM

in the **PARK**™

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics



Bartholomew and the Oobleck by Dr. Seuss

Oobleck is a non-Newtonian fluid. That is, it acts like a liquid when being poured, but like a solid when a force is acting on it. You can grab it and then it will ooze out of your hands.

Oobleck gets its name from the Dr. Seuss book Bartholomew and the Oobleck where a gooey green substance, Oobleck, fell from the sky and wreaked havoc in the kingdom. Here the Oobleck will be made in a bowl and will likely make a mess, but only because you can get carried away playing with it!

What You Need

- 1-cup water
- 1.5-2 cups corn starch
- A few drops of food coloring of your choice
- A large mixing bowl
- A spoon

Start with the water in a bowl and start adding the cornstarch to it. You can use a spoon at first, but pretty quickly you'll be moving on to using your hand to stir it up.

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When you're getting close to adding 1.5 cups of the cornstarch, start adding it in more slowly and mixing it in with your hand. The goal is to get a consistency where the Oobleck reaches a state that is liquid and yet solid.

Sometimes you will need more corn starch. If so, keep adding more than the initial 1.5 cups. If you add too much, just add some water back into it. You will have to play with it to see what feels appropriately weird.

Questions to ask while doing this experiment with your child:

- How does the "Oobleck" feel? What does it smell like?
- Do you think it is a liquid or a solid?
- Do you think it will stick to other things?
- What do you think it will look like when it dries out?

Questions to ask when reading with your child:

- **Before:** What do you think the story is going to be about?
- **During:** How do you think this character feels? What is the character doing? Why? What do you think will happen next?
- **After:** Who were the characters? What was the problem? How did the characters fix it? Where did the story take place?

Tips for TV:

You can apply the same principles for watching and listening to television with your child to help improve listening and speaking skills as well as oral comprehension.

Questions to ask when watching TV with your child:

- **Before:** Based on the preview, what do you think this episode is going to be about?
- **During:** Who are the main characters? What are they doing? Why? During commercials: What do you think will happen next? Why?
- **After:** Tell me what happened in the show in the order it happened. Did you like this show? Why or why not?

This activity brought to you by Martha Gesling Weber Reading Center at BGSU

