

**Project FOCUS  
Best Lessons  
FIRST GRADE**

**Title of Lesson:** Slime

**Theme:** Physical Science

**Unit Number:**        **Unit Title:**

**Performance Standard(s) Covered (enter code):**

S1CS5

S1CS6

**Enduring Standards (objectives of activity):**

**Habits of Mind**

- Asks questions
- Uses numbers to quantify
- Works in a group
- Uses tools to measure and view
- Looks at how parts of things are needed
- Describes and compares using physical attributes
- Observes using senses
- Draws and describes observations

**Content (key terms and topics covered):**

States of matter (solid, liquid), experiments

**Learning Activity (Description in Steps)**

**Abstract(limit 100 characters):** This lesson shows the students a unique type of matter that is a mixture of a solid and liquid.

**Details:** I made the colloid mixture before class started in order to save some preparation time. I did this by mixing two parts cornstarch and one part water. I added the water slowly to the cornstarch and continuously mixed with a spoon until it became the consistency that I wanted. I added a few drops of food coloring for effect. Then I created two additional mixtures, one with more cornstarch and another with more water. These two mixtures served to represent the two extreme states of matter, solid and liquid. I covered all of the tables with paper in order reduce the amount of clean-up in the end. I then distributed the colloid mixture to my classroom in small dispenser cups and allowed them to experiment with this unique mixture. In order to make it behave like a solid, I instructed the students to poke the colloid really fast. Then, in order to make it behave like a liquid, I instructed the students to poke the colloid really slow. After they played with their mixtures, I used the SMART board to demonstrate how particles move in the three different states of matter. For the solid, I drew particles very close together, and for the gas I drew particles very far apart. I asked the students to name different examples of each state of matter. I also asked them to relate this colloid mixture to

quicksand and how they are similar.

**Materials Needed (Type and Quantity):**

- o cornstarch**
- o water**
- o mixing bowls**
- o small dispenser cups**
- o food coloring (color of choice)**
- o spoons**
- o SMART board and markers**

**Notes and Tips (suggested changes, alternative methods, cautions):**

Since first graders are very enthusiastic about anything hands on, it is advisable to give them all of the instructions before you distribute the colloid because it could turn into one very big mess. Also, although this mixture is made from cornstarch and water, it is probably not that delicious, so be sure to tell the kids not to eat it.

**Sources/References:**

- 1)**
- 2)**
- 3)**