



OUBLECK EXPERIMENT

At Home Edition - #MCMAtHome

Is Oobleck a solid or a liquid?

Vocabulary:

- **Non-Newtonian Fluid:** a fluid that doesn't behave the way fluids we think of as "normal," like water, behave.

The Lesson:

- Oobleck is a non-Newtonian fluid.
- Oobleck, in particular, is interesting because its viscosity, or its resistance to flow, increases when pressure is applied to it. That is why when you squeeze it in your hand, it feels like a solid, but when you let it sit in your palm, it flows like a liquid.
- This property of oobleck comes from the structure of the cornstarch grains, which tangle and "lock up" when pressure is applied, causing the oobleck to act like a solid under pressure!

The Set Up:

- Gather Supplies: 1/2 cup of corn starch, green food coloring, bowl, water

The Activity:

- Slowly mix equal parts cornstarch and water in a bowl. If your oobleck is too runny, add more cornstarch. If it is too hard, add more water!
- Add the food coloring.
- Mix well.
- Have fun with your oobleck!

Want more? Find more STEM activity pages to experiment at home online at mschildrensmuseum.org/activities-you-can-do-at-home

Be sure to take pictures or videos and tag #MCMAtHome