

Snowman Soup

Materials

Cardboard • marker • blender • ice • water • packages of hot chocolate mix • bowls • spoons • individual thermometers

What to do

1. Draw a large thermometer on a piece of cardboard.
2. Discuss how a thermometer works. Show the children where 32° is and explain what the freezing point means.
3. Place ice in a blender, about $\frac{3}{4}$ full. Add water, about $\frac{1}{2}$ full.
4. Add half of a package of cocoa mix.
5. Chop and crush the ice mixture until smooth.
6. Pour into soup bowls.
7. Encourage the children to place a clean thermometer in their bowl of snowman soup. Tell them they may eat it when their soup reaches the freezing point!

★ Vera M. Peters, Elizabethton, TN

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Physical Science Experience: Oobleck, Liquid, or Solid?

Materials

For each group of children: 1 box of cornstarch • pitcher of water • green food coloring or liquid watercolor • large mixing bowl • mixing spoon • smock for each child

What to do

1. Read Dr. Seuss's *Bartholomew and the Oobleck* to the children.
2. After reading the book, tell the children that they are going to become scientists and create the substance "oobleck."

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3. Divide the children into groups of four.
4. Give each group smocks, a mixing spoon, a bowl, a pitcher of water, a box of cornstarch, and food coloring.
5. Ask the children to pour a box of cornstarch into the bowl, then mix in just enough water to make it pasty.
6. Add green food coloring or liquid watercolor.
7. Ask the children to slowly dip their finger into the mixture. Does it feel runny?
8. Have them put the oobleck into the palm of their hand and try to roll it into a small ball. What happens when they stop rolling?
9. Try tapping it hard with the mixing spoon. What happens?
10. Let them experiment on their own with the substance. Is it a liquid or a solid?

★ Kimberly H. Puff, Allentown, PA

A Sticky Experiment

Materials

Newspaper • bowls • glue • liquid starch • water • spoons • measuring spoons and cups • zipper-closure plastic bags • meat trays • paper • marker

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What to do

1. Cover a table with newspaper.
2. Fill a bowl with glue, a bowl with liquid starch, and a bowl with water and put them on the table.
3. Put out the spoons, cups, meat trays, and extra empty bowls.
4. Encourage the children to mix the three ingredients in different combinations and watch the results. For example, mixing starch and glue first, and then water makes a stringy linguini-type mixture, while mixing glue and water first, and then starch makes a kind of putty material.
5. Have an adult supervise the experiments and record the recipes and outcomes so that the “good” ones can be repeated.

★ Ann Kelly, Johnstown, PA