Oobleck

Overview:

Students actively participate in two hands-on activities that demonstrate the three states of matter (solid, liquid, and gas). (NOTE: Level I students are not expected to understand gases.)

Objectives:

The student will:
• work in groups to complete an assigned task;
• use four of the five senses to investigate; and
• classify the properties of solids and liquids.

GLEs Addressed:

Science
• [3-4] SA1.1 The student demonstrates an understanding of the processes of science by asking questions, predicting, observing, describing, measuring, classifying, making generalizations, inferring, and communicating.
• [3] SA1.2 The student demonstrates an understanding of the processes of science by observing and describing the student's own world.
• [4] SA1.2 The student demonstrates an understanding of the processes of science by observing, measuring, and collecting data from explorations and using this information to classify, predict, and communicate.
• [3] SB1.1 The student demonstrates an understanding of the structure and properties of matter by classifying matter according to physical properties (i.e., color, size, shape, weight, texture, flexibility).
• [4] SB1.1 The student demonstrates an understanding of the structure and properties of matter by identifying and comparing the characteristics of gases, liquids, and solids.

Materials:

• Cornstarch
• Water
• Green food coloring
• Dr. Seuss. (1949). Bartholomew and the Oobleck.
• STUDENT WORKSHEET: "Oobleck"

Vocabulary:

matter - the substance of which a physical object is composed
solid - a substance that keeps its size and shape
liquid - flowing like water; fluid matter having no fixed shape but a fixed volume
gas - a fluid (as hydrogen or air) that has no fixed shape and tends to expand without limit

Activity Preparation:

Make enough oobleck for each small group of students to explore. For each batch, mix together 1 ½ cups of corn starch, 1 cup of water, and as much green food coloring as desired.