

Activity # 5 – DIY Peppermint Slime

Making peppermint slime is a fun STEM activity that can be used in the holiday season.

Below is a simple recipe:

Ingredients:

- 1 cup of white school glue
- 1 cup of shaving cream
- 1 teaspoon of baking soda
- 2 to 3 drops of peppermint extract (adjust to your preference)
- Red food coloring (optional, for a peppermint color)
- 1 tablespoon of contact lens solution (containing boric acid and sodium borate)
- ½ teaspoon of glitter (optional)

Equipment:

- Mixing bowl
- Spoon

Instructions:

1. In a mixing bowl, combine a cup of white school glue and a cup of shaving cream. Stir them together with a spoon until well mixed.
2. Add 1 teaspoon of baking soda to the mixture and stir thoroughly. This helps give the slime its desired consistency.
3. Next, add 2 to 3 drops of peppermint extract to the mixture. Adjust the amount based on how strong you want the peppermint scent to be in the slime.
4. To get the red peppermint color, add 2 to 3 drops of red food coloring to the mixture. Stir until the color is completely dissolved.
5. Gradually add 1 tablespoon contact lens solution to the mixture, stirring continuously. Add it a little at a time until the slime starts to come together and pull away from the sides of the bowl.
6. Knead the slime with your hands until it reaches the desired consistency. If it is too sticky, you can add a little bit more contact lens solution.
7. Optionally, add glitter for a festive touch.
8. Once the slime is ready, have fun playing with it!

9. Store the slime in an airtight container when you are not using it to keep it from drying out.

Explore and Learn:

Discuss the science behind slime formation with students. The borate ions in the contact lens solution link the polymer chains in the glue, creating slime. You can also explore concepts like viscosity, elasticity, and chemical reactions in a simplified manner.

This interactivity not only allows for creative exploration but also introduces basic scientific concepts in a playful way. Have a festive and educational time creating peppermint candy cane slime!