



QUICKSAND

Liquid or solid?

WHAT DO YOU NEED?

- A plastic pop bottle with the top part removed
- Water
- Food coloring
- Cornstarch



WHAT DO YOU DO?

1. Measure $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of water.
2. Add food coloring to the water.
3. Pour $\frac{1}{2}$ pound of cornstarch into your pop bottle.
4. Slowly add the dyed water to the cornstarch and stir the mixture carefully.
5. Once all the starch has been mixed, conduct some tests. Stir the quicksand. The faster you stir, the harder the quicksand becomes. The slower you stir, the runnier the quicksand gets. Let it run through your fingers. Then give your quicksand a squeeze.

WHAT'S GOING ON?

Quicksand may sometimes act like a solid, but it doesn't keep a regular shape, so it's a liquid. Your "quicksand" is a special kind of liquid that becomes thicker, rather than thinner, when stirred.

NOTE: Don't pour your quicksand down the drain! It will clog the pipes.

Source: Brunelle, Lynn. Pop Bottle Science. New York: Workman Publishing Company, Inc., 2004.

