The Right Chemistry

Ooooooozing Slime

Experience chemical reactions first-hand by creating your own slime.

What you need:

- Teaspoon
- Large jar
- Large mixing bowl
- Measuring cup
- Safety glasses
- 4-ounce bottle of white all-purpose glue (not school glue!)
- 1-1/2 cups (360 ml) distilled water
- Food coloring (optional)
- Borax powder

What to do:

1. Pour the glue into the jar. Add four ounces (120 ml) of distilled water to the glue. Mix well.
2. Add 2 to 5 drops of food coloring to the glue solution. Mix well.
3. Pour one cup (240 ml) of warm distilled water into the bowl and add 1 teaspoon of borax powder. Mix well.
4. Slowly add the glue mixture to the bowl containing the borax mixture, stirring as you do so.
5. Knead the thick slime with your hands. (You may want to wear rubber or plastic gloves to do this!) The slime will be wet, stringy and messy at first, but the more you play with it, the firmer it becomes.
6. Slime will dry out when exposed to air for a long time. To preserve it, store your slime in a self-sealing bag in the refrigerator.

What happened?:

How does this oozing mass of slime hold together? The glue molecules are polymers. When you knead the mixture, the borax links these polymers together into a network. That's why the slime becomes so thick — the more polymer links that are formed, the thicker the slime becomes.