

Quicksand

Download the teacher notes, PowerPoint presentation and student workbook that accompany this resource at rsc.li/3PhT8f2.

Read our health & safety guidance, available from rsc.li/3IAmFA0, and carry out a risk assessment before running any live practical.

The safety equipment suggested is in line with CLEAPSS requirements. For non-hazardous substances, wearing lab coats can help to protect clothes. The safety rules might be different where you live so it is worth checking local and school guidance.

Activity 1: what is the best way to escape from quicksand?

Equipment

Per small group/pair of learners:

- 150 cm³ cornflour
- 75 cm³ water
- Food colouring (only a few drops needed)
- 250 cm³ plastic beaker or bowl
- 100 cm³ measuring cylinder
- Stirring rod (not glass)
- Newspaper/bin bags to cover desks with

Disposal

Provide bin bags to dispose of the ooze into normal waste rather than down the sink.

Acknowledgements

This resource was originally developed by Liverpool John Moores University to support outreach work delivered as part of the Chemistry for All project.

To find out more about the project, and get more resources to help widen participation, visit our Outreach resources hub: rsc.li/3CJX7M3.