

# Sticky Fingers



## Family Science Activity

**Due Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

### This activity helps you learn about...

**Objects and materials:**

- composition
- properties
- behavior

### This activity involves...

Collecting data, communicating, experimenting, formulating hypotheses, inferring, interpreting data, observing, predicting

### Activity Duration

Allow 1–2 days to complete this activity.

### What do we need?

*From School:* 1 cup of flour, 1-1/2 cups of cornstarch, magnifying lens (optional), 1-gallon plastic bag, 1 Observation Record

*From Home:* Water, tablespoon, measuring cup

### What are we doing?

Everywhere in the world, there are different types of objects and substances. In this activity, your scientist will use three ingredients (flour, cornstarch, and water) to make different substances and look at the substances very closely. Will they be the same? Will they be different? What will be their properties?

### How are we going to do this?

In this activity, you will make two substances and then study their color, shape, and texture.

***Remember that scientists do not taste unknown substances!***

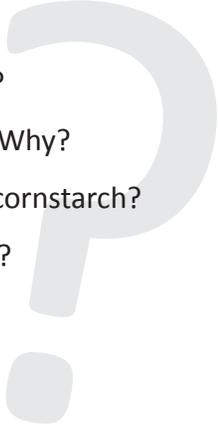
## Day 1

1. Find the plastic bag labeled “FLOUR” and the other plastic bag labeled “CORNSTARCH.” Get some water in your measuring cup.
2. Closely observe the flour, cornstarch, and water. Do not mix them. Feel and look at each substance. Use a magnifying lens, if available. Describe each substance on your Observation Record.
3. You will be adding water to the flour and cornstarch. Predict what each mixture will feel like after adding water. Describe your predictions on the Observation Record.
4. Add 3 tablespoons of water to the “FLOUR” bag. Seal the “FLOUR” bag and shake it for 1 minute. Press and squeeze the mixture for best results.
5. Observe your flour mixture very closely. Look at it and feel it. How did the flour and water change? Describe the mixture on your Observation Record.

## Day 2

1. Find the plastic bag labeled “CORNSTARCH”. Get some water in your measuring cup.
2. Add 1 cup of water to the “CORNSTARCH” bag. Seal the “CORNSTARCH” bag and shake it for 1 minute. Press and squeeze the mixture for best results.
3. Observe your cornstarch mixture very closely. Look at it and feel it. How did the cornstarch and water change? Describe the mixture on your Observation Record.
4. Finish your Observation Record and discuss the Family Time Questions that follow.
5. Return your Observation Record, your mixtures, and packet to school by the date due.

## Family Time Questions

1. How did the flour, cornstarch, and water feel before mixing them?
  2. What was the same about your substances? What was different? Why?
  3. How did the two mixtures feel? What happened to the flour and cornstarch?
  4. Which mixture was easier to shape? Why do you think this is true?
  5. Which mixture was stickier? Why do you think this is true?
  6. Which substance felt more like a solid? More like a liquid? Why?
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## Family Notes

- Please make sure your scientist does not eat either mixture. Both mixtures are edible but not likely to make your scientist very happy. Remind your child that scientists do not taste unknown substances.
- Please make sure the bags are sealed before your scientist starts shaking.
- On the Observation Record, all responses are acceptable; no answer is right or wrong. For the “I discovered” section, any thoughts are welcome.
- Encourage your scientist to record what she or he observes and thinks about the activity. Words or drawings may be used to record the observations.
- Your scientist may need help to complete the activity and fill out the Observation Record. Please partner with your child on this activity.

**Family Science**

# Family Science Observation Record

# Sticky Fingers



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Complete the charts below based on your observations. Use words and/or drawings.

***Description before mixing***

Flour	Cornstarch	Water

*Describe the flour + water mixture.*

<b>Hypothesis:</b> <i>(Circle your choice)</i>	<b>How does it feel?</b>	<b>How does it look?</b>	<b>Results:</b> <i>(Circle your choice)</i>
<b>The mixture will be...</b>  Solid  Liquid  Gas  Other			<b>The mixture was:</b>  Solid  Liquid  Gas  Other

*Describe the cornstarch + water mixture.*

<b>Hypothesis:</b> <i>(Circle your choice)</i>	<b>How does it feel?</b>	<b>How does it look?</b>	<b>Results:</b> <i>(Circle your choice)</i>
<b>The mixture will be...</b>  Solid  Liquid  Gas  Other			<b>The mixture was:</b>  Solid  Liquid  Gas  Other



**Family Science**

**I discovered...**

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