

Volume 4

Oozing Slime Laboratory

TEACHER'S GUIDE

What's In Your Kit?

Oozing Slime Poster (important vocabulary words)

Oozing Slime Laboratory readers (25 copies)

Teacher's Guide

Laboratory Supplies

12 large Petri dishes with lids, 12 filter papers, 6 plastic zipper bags, 1 pack of dried slime, 1 pack of sterile oat flakes, 6 tweezers, 6 pipettes

The only additional supplies you'll need are masking tape, a brown paper bag, a cup of water, paper, and pencils.

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Summary

- Students will practice scientific observation, forming and testing **hypotheses**, and recording results. A hypothesis is an informed guess that can be tested in an experiment.
- The lab is divided into **four simple activities** spread over four or five consecutive days.
 - Read about oozing slime and answer questions
 - Observe slime, draw, and describe
 - Do two experiments with growing slime
- Start on Monday and finish up before the weekend or keep slimes and experiments going for another week or two.

Web Connection

For free, additional activities and handouts:

www.earthsbirthday.org/hos/slime



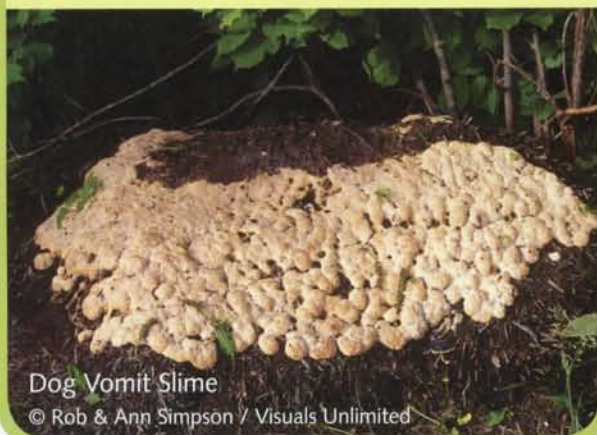
What Are Slimes?

Slimes are neither plants nor animals, but they are alive. They are made of **protoplasm** [PRO-toe-plaz-im], which is the semi-liquid material in all living cells, including cells in human bodies. A soft, stretchy shell, called a “cell membrane,” holds the protoplasm together in one piece.

Slimes are the largest one-celled life forms on Earth. In fact, they are gigantic compared with other one-celled **organisms** [OR-gun-is-ims], most of which are microscopic.

➔ All living things are made of **cells**. There are many trillions of microscopic cells in a human body (a trillion is a million million), but just one big cell in an oozing slime.

Slimes’ common names describe what they look like: chocolate tube, red raspberry, cherry cobbler, carnival candy, yellow tender blossom, Japanese lantern, bubble gum, spaghetti, pretzel, scrambled egg, toothpaste, wolf’s milk, and even dog vomit.



Most slimes are brilliantly colored—bright red, purple, orange, pink, brown, yellow, cream, white—but a few are soft gray or tan. Some slimes glow in the dark.



Oozing Anatomy

Slimes don’t often grow larger than a few centimeters, but a few can grow up to 2 meters long. When they are in their oozing stage, slimes grow in all directions and have no regular outline. They look like blobs, foam, smears, or strings. When they become fruiting bodies, slimes have compact, regular shapes. They may look like puffy balls, bunches of tubes, or tiny balloons.

Slimes do not have bones, brains, hearts, or sense organs (eyes, ears, noses, mouths, skin). They have no muscles, but they can move from place to place by streaming like water. They have no stomachs or mouths, but they can eat by oozing onto rotting food and absorbing it as it turns to liquid.

Did you know?

Although most slimes travel no more than 1 millimeter per hour, some go as fast as 2 centimeters per minute. A person walking travels more than 8,000 centimeters per minute.

There are about 500 different kinds of slime.

Experiment 1

Question: What will happen to the slime if we add water to the Petri dish?

Do you think that adding water will cause a change in the slime? Based on what you know about slime, make a good guess about what will happen. Your guess is your hypothesis. Write it in a complete sentence on the lines below.

Hypothesis: _____

Steps: Put a check by the number as you do each thing on the list.

- _____ 1. Add two full pipettes of water (2 milliliters) to each Petri dish. Be sure to drip some water right onto the slimes and the oats.
- _____ 2. Put the lids on the dishes and put them into a plastic bag.
- _____ 3. Put the dishes in a dark place.

Observation: The next day, check your Petri dish. On another piece of paper, trace around the dish and then draw what you see.

Results: Write all of the changes that you observe below. Use the back of the paper if you need more room.

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____
- 4. _____

Conclusion: Is this what you hypothesized would happen? Write your answer in one or two complete sentences.

