

## Weird, Wonderful, and Awesome – SLIME!

Lots of different animals, including humans, can make slime or mucous! Examples include hagfish, Virginia opossums, slugs, parrotfish, and sea lions, just to name a few!

Slime is used by these creatures in lots of different ways. For soft bodied critters like slugs, it helps to keep their bodies from drying out; makes it easier to move along the forest floor; and acts like superglue, helping them hold on to plants or rocks and making it hard for birds or other animals to pick them up and eat them!

Virginia opossums make a stinky mucous in their bottoms to frighten off attackers, and sea lions make gooey stuff to keep their eyes and noses from being irritated by salt and sand. You might find yourself making mucous during allergy season or when you get sick as your body tries to get rid of viruses, bacteria, or pollen!

Doctors and scientists have even used what they learned from slimy creatures to make incredible advancements in medicine. For instance, researchers investigated the slime from a special kind of slug and used what they found to make new surgical glue that is helping to save lives!

We won't be making that kind of slime today but, if you're ready to get in on some slimy fun, grab an adult and these materials and get ready to GOO!

# SLIME CREATION



### Slime Ingredients:

- 1/2 Cup of Washable PVA Clear Glue or White Glue
- 1/4 Cup of Liquid Starch
- 1/2 Cup of Water (optional)
- Skin-safe soap dye, biodegradable glitter, and other fun mix-ins (optional)

### Recipe:

1. Mix the glue (and water, if using) with a few drops of coloring until the color is even.
2. Add a small amount of glitter (if using) and stir until glitter is mixed in.
3. Pour the liquid starch into the mixture.
4. Stir and let it sit for five minutes.
5. Take the slime out of the bowl and set it on the parchment paper.
6. Work your slime with your hands. It will be stringy at first, but this will change as you move it around.