

## 7. PVA putty

Make a strange substance that flows like liquid, bounces like rubber and snaps when you pull it!

### Apparatus

PVA glue  
Borax (available from Boots)  
2 plastic cups  
A lollipop stick  
A dessertspoon  
Water



Wash your hands when you have finished, and don't try to eat the putty you make!

### Experiment

Making the PVA Putty.

Put about half a centimetre of water in one of the cups, and add a little borax. Stir thoroughly with the lolly stick. If it all dissolves, add more borax and stir again. Keep going until no more borax will dissolve.

Rinse the lolly stick.

Put about 1 cm depth of PVA glue in the other cup. Add an equal quantity of water and mix thoroughly with the stick.

Now add borax solution to the PVA mixture, a few drops at a time. Stir thoroughly with the lolly stick between each addition. You will notice

that the glue gets thicker and thicker. Before long it will come away from the sides of the cup in a single lump. From now on it is easier to mix it by kneading it in your hands. If it is still a bit sticky, dip it in the borax solution and knead it to mix the borax in.

### Things to try with PVA Putty

Roll the putty into a ball. Drop it on a hard surface. What happens?

Keep the putty in a sandwich bag or in an old film canister.

Stretch the putty as fast as you can. What happens?

Leave the putty for 5 minutes. What happens to it? (This is more interesting if you leave the putty on a lumpy surface, like your fingers.)