

The Science of Slime

These days, slime-based toys and games can be found in shops and online. Did you know that it was scientists exploring the earliest types of plastics who laid the foundations for slime as we know it today?

During the 19th century, chemists found that blending different chemicals together, then exposing them to heat and pressure, created substances that could be stretched and shaped. Some of these substances could be moulded into hard plastics but some displayed a much more gooey texture that behaved in a way that was somewhere between a solid and a liquid.

Toy companies quickly realised they could sell this type of substance as slime. From the 1950s, the science of mixing chemicals has been used to make a slimy gunk for children to enjoy.



Quick Questions



SLIME

1. What did chemists blend together to create stretchy substances? Tick one.

- plastics scientists foundations chemicals

2. Look at the first paragraph.

Which phrase from the text tells the reader that scientists from the past first discovered the science that would create slime?

3. Explain why toy companies might have reacted quickly to selling slime.

4. Summarise what this text is about in one sentence.



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Answers



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2. Look at the first paragraph. Which phrase from the text tells the reader that scientists from the past first discovered the science that would create slime?

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3. Explain why toy companies might have reacted quickly to selling slime.

Pupils' own responses, such as: Toy companies might have reacted quickly to selling slime because it was new and would make them money.

4. Summarise what this text is about in one sentence.

Pupils' own responses, such as: This text is about scientists discovering that chemicals could be combined to make new substances, including slime, which toy companies soon started to sell.

