

# STEM ACTIVITY

## Paul and the Unknown God

Total Time: 15 minutes  
In Class Time: 10 minutes

**You will need:**

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- Corn starch
- Water
- Mixing bowl
- Fork
- Food coloring (optional)
- Hand washing station or wipes



**STEP 1: TEACH:** In our story, QBIT could change shapes. We're going to make something that can change shapes—and even states. It's called “oobleck”, and I hope you're okay with getting your hands messy. If not, it's okay to just watch.

**STEP 2:** In the mixing bowl, mix one cup (235 mL) of corn starch with one cup of water and stir it with a fork. If you like, add a few drops of food coloring. When it gets too thick to stir with the fork, use your hands.

**STEP 3:** You will end up with oobleck—a thick, gooey substance that has the properties of both a solid and a liquid. You can pour it like a liquid. If you hold it in your hand, it oozes through your fingers. But if you pound it with your fist, it resists like a solid.

**CLEANUP NOTE:** Oobleck can clog drains, so dispose of it in a trash can.

## EXPLAINING THE SCIENCE:

The oobleck mixture you made is a heterogeneous mixture—which means it has multiple consistencies. The corn starch particles are very small and form uneven ‘clumps’ in the solution. These more dense parts cause the mixture to move differently when under pressure (as when you pound it).