

Corn plastic Christmas decorations



Age 7+
(adult supervision)



30 minutes

Details

What you need

- 1 tablespoon of corn starch
- 1 tablespoon water
- 2 drops of oil
- 2 drops of food colouring
- 1 measuring spoon
- 1 ziplock bag (microwaveable cups work too)
- Silicone Christmas moulds

Safety and Guidance



Precautions

Use protective hand ware when removing items from the microwave. Ensure you leave items to cool before touching.

Overview

Christmas decorations really help you get in the festive mood. Yet they are often made of plastic which is made from oil and has negative impact on oceans and the animals which live there. In this activity students make their own Christmas decorations using corn plastic.

Running the activity

1. Measure 1 tablespoon of cornstarch into your plastic bag.
2. Add 1 tablespoon of water to the cornstarch.
3. Add 2 small drops of corn oil to the mixture in your bag.
4. Add 2 drops of food colouring to the mixture in your bag.
5. Seal the bag and squish it (or stir if in a cup) gently to mix everything together.
6. Microwave your mixture on high power for 20 seconds. Be sure to leave the bag open a tiny bit so that steam can escape.
7. Put into Christmas style moulds and heat in the microwave until slightly yellow. (Do not heat for too long or else it will become brittle and crumbly.)

Note

You may want to extend the activity another by painting your decorations or even gluing a ribbon on the back so they can hang from a tree.

The amount of ingredients you will need will depend on the size of moulds you use. Generally, there is a 1:1 ratio of water and corn starch. Adding less cornstarch will create a softer plastic whereas adding more will create a harder plastic. All items are easily purchased from your local supermarket and online.

