

PULL-OUT
ACTIVITY SECTION

THE LAB

Eight pages of things to make and do

TOP TIP

Store your Moon sand in a sealed tub or sealed bag so it lasts longer. Add a little water if it feels too dry, or add washing-up liquid if its texture has changed.

Make Moon sand

Turn ordinary play sand into a mouldable alien substance that acts like both a solid and a liquid.

What you need

- 700g fine play sand
- Large mixing bowl
- 200g cornflour
- Smaller bowl
- 100ml water
- 3tsp washing-up liquid
- Tablespoon
- Cookie cutters, sandbox toys (optional)

Instructions

- 1** Pour the play sand into a large mixing bowl.
- 2** Add the cornflour to the sand. Mix them together with your hands.
- 3** Pour the water and the washing-up liquid into the smaller bowl. Stir until they are well mixed.
- 4** Add the soapy water to the sand mixture one tablespoon at a time and combine them with your hands.
- 5** Keep doing this until the sand begins to stick to itself and forms clumps when pressed together. Play with it and mould it into any shape you like with your hands, cookie cutters and other toys.

Mould your sand into shapes.



How does it work?

Moon sand, also known as kinetic sand, is a substance that behaves very strangely. It feels stiff and can be moulded into shapes like modelling clay. However, after a few minutes or hours, it sags back into a shapeless lump. Materials that change their runniness when force is applied to them are called non-Newtonian fluids. When there is no pressure on it, cornflour particles in the Moon sand can move easily past each other, and it acts like a thick liquid, but when pressure is applied, the particles jam together, making the sand more solid.

We would love to see your Moon sand creations. Please send your photos to scienceandnature@dennis.co.uk

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