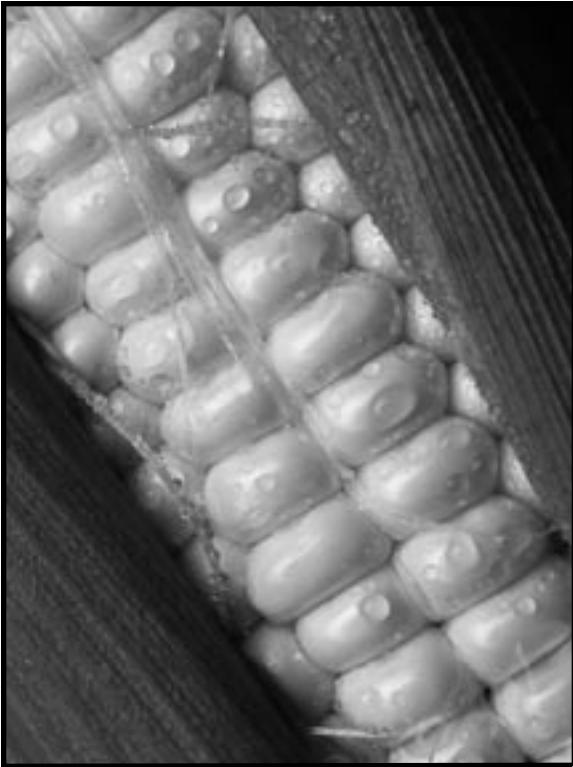


CORN

A COMMODITY FACT SHEET COMPILED BY THE LOUISIANA AG IN THE CLASSROOM PROGRAM



HISTORY

Corn is a grass native to America which the people in Central Mexico cultivating it at least 7,000 years ago. Corn was a staple in the diet of many Indian groups. They used all parts of the corn. The sugary leaves were used as a sort of chewing gum, immature corn was their vegetable and dry, mature kernels were ground into flour.

Today, corn is grown on every continent except Antarctica. Corn is the No. 1 grain crop in the United States. Most corn grown in the U.S. is a variety called field corn or dent corn, which is used as livestock feed and processed into a variety of products. The corn most of us eat is called sweet corn.

PRODUCTION

Corn is planted in the spring from a seed called a “kernel.” The seed will grow into a stalk which then produces ears of corn. The ears of corn mature over the summer. When they are ready to harvest, in late August or early September, they will turn downward to the ground. Producers use a machine called a combine to harvest the corn.

Once in the combine, the ears enter a sheller. The sheller is a metal cylinder that rotates at a high speed and removes all husks and kernels from the cob. The corn is then loaded onto trucks and transported to a nearby grain elevator. The corn is stored at the elevator in bins until it is sold and shipped out for processing.

An ear of corn averages 800 kernels in 16 rows. An acre of corn yielding 100 bushels produces approximately 7,280,000 kernels.

PRODUCTS

There are more than 3,500 different uses for corn. Primary products are cornstarch, sweeteners, food and industrial items.

There are many edible uses for corn including aspirin, marshmallows, ice cream, cereals, corn chips, cornmeal, baking mixes and more.

Some non-edible products that contain or are made from corn include ethanol, book binding, ink, glue, shoe polish, cosmetics, fireworks, paint, paper, crayons, chalk, toothpaste, soap, candles, batteries and charcoal.

There are more uses being found every day for corn.

NUTRITION

Corn is a member of the vegetable group. Everyone should have 3-5 servings from this group each day. Corn is low in fat and calories and provides almost three grams of dietary fiber per ear. The starch found in corn is a carbohydrate.



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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[http://www.aitcla.org/files/
commodity_handout_sheets.pdf](http://www.aitcla.org/files/commodity_handout_sheets.pdf)

OUBLECK



Materials

- Green food coloring
- Bowl
- 1 (16-oz.) box cornstarch
- Tablecovering
- 1½ cups of water (*approximate*)
- Paper towels
- Measuring cup

DIRECTIONS

Oobleck is the name of this substance that resembles the green rain Dr. Seuss describes in his book *Bartholomew and the Oobleck*.

It is a unique substance that exhibits properties of both liquids and solids. It can be useful in studying scientific methodology and the properties of both solids and liquids.

Preparing the Oobleck:

1. Begin by adding several drops of food coloring to the water.
2. Place half the water in the bowl and add entire box of cornstarch. Mix, adding remaining water slowly as needed. The

Oobleck should flow like a liquid when the bowl is tipped and feel like a solid when touching the surface. Adjust by adding cornstarch if mixture is too soupy or water if too thick.

Procedure:

1. In groups, instruct students to investigate the properties of Oobleck.

Remember a property is something that can be seen, heard, smelled or felt by the senses (*color, texture, shape, hardness, odor, etc. are examples of properties*)

Have students record their observations.

NOTE: Remind students that substances in the lab should **never** be tasted.

If available, have microscopes and/or thermometers for students to further investigate properties.

2. Have groups share the results of their investigation.
3. During discussion, have the students determine if Oobleck is a solid or a liquid.
4. Clean up. Oobleck is best cleaned up dry. **Never pour Oobleck down the drain!** It will cause a clog. Let any spillage dry then sweep up or wipe away.