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Natural Resource Distribution Activity for Kids

Bioplastic DIY

 Duration: **45 min**  Difficulty: **Medium**  Cost: **\$0 to \$20**

Learn how to make bioplastic using natural resources!

Material List

- 1** Tablespoon of Corn Starch
- 4** Tablespoons of Water
- 1** Teaspoon of Vinegar
- 1** Teaspoon of Glycerin
- 1** Silicone Spatula
- 1** Sheet of Aluminum Foil
- 1** Pot
- 1** Hot Plate

Adult supervision

Instructions

- 1** In the pot, mix 1 tablespoon of corn starch, 4 tablespoons of water, 1 teaspoon of vinegar, and 1 teaspoon of glycerin.
- 2** With adult supervision, turn the hot plate to medium and mix the ingredients with the silicone spatula.
- 3** As it is heated, it will start to thicken.
- 4** Once the edges start to turn clear and it becomes thick, turn off the hot plate and carefully spread the material from the pot onto the aluminum foil. Remember not to touch it because it is hot!
- 5** Let the material cool on the foil for 24 hours and then peel it off.

How It Works

Normal plastic is made from oil, which is unevenly distributed on Earth and is a non-renewable resource. Scientists are working on ways to make plastics from renewable resources. The bioplastic we produced is made from corn (corn starch), a renewable resource. The vinegar we mixed in caused a chemical reaction that modified the corn starch and formed a new substance. The glycerin kept it from drying out. This shows one of the ways scientists are creating bioplastic from renewable resources.

