

Opinion: Jell-O slime is meant for playing, and you can eat it too!

By Maura Judkis, Washington Post, adapted by Newsela staff on 02.01.19

Word Count 444

Level 530L



Image 1. Slime has become popular and there are many types: glitter slime, magnetic slime, glow-in-the-dark slime and now even edible slime. Photo by Stacy Zarin Goldberg/The Washington Post

I didn't understand the slime craze at first. It's probably because I am not a kid.

Slime is everywhere now. Kids are very eager to try out new kinds. They sell each other special slime. There are even slime celebrities on YouTube. They are famous for knowing all about slime.

All that sounded pretty silly to me. Then I thought back to when I was in the fourth grade. We had something called Floam. It was a kind of moldable ooze filled with Styrofoam balls. Maybe all kids need some kind of messy, squishy, disgusting glop to play with.

There are so many types of slime. There is glitter slime and magnetic slime. There is glow-in-the-dark slime. Then there's a weird blood slime you can eat. That one is kind of disgusting!



Many kids make their own slime. Now, though, the food company Jell-O has come out with a powdered slime mix. It says the mix is super-easy to make.

I decided to test it out.

Slime Has A Very Fun Feel

The mix comes in two flavors. One is the lime-flavored monster slime. The other is the strawberry-flavored unicorn slime.

It's quite simple to make Jell-O's slime. First, pour three scoops of slime powder into a bowl. Next, add around one and a half scoops of water. Then, quickly mix.

Once I got my hands on some slime, I started to understand why kids go crazy for the stuff. It is somewhere between a solid and a liquid. You can roll it into a ball. You can also try letting it sit in your hand for a few seconds. It will melt right through your fingers. If you pull it tight, you can tear it in half. You can also stretch it into long strings.

The slime Jell-O makes is not just play slime. It can be eaten too. If you ask me, though, it tastes sort of odd. It's gloopy, but tastes powdery. The lime flavor is sort of like crushed SweeTarts. The strawberry flavor reminded me of sweet-tasting medicine.

I did not eat much slime. It just doesn't taste that great to me. I did really enjoy playing with the stuff, though. I mashed it up, stretched it thin and let it drip out of my fists. I played with it for much longer than I really needed to. Now I get why kids love slime so much!

Quiz

- 1 Select the paragraph in the introduction [paragraphs 1-6] that explains messy things kids played with in the past.
- (A) Slime is everywhere now. Kids are very eager to try out new kinds. They sell each other special slime. There are even slime celebrities on YouTube. They are famous for knowing all about slime.
 - (B) All that sounded pretty silly to me. Then I thought back to when I was in the fourth grade. We had something called Floam. It was a kind of moldable ooze filled with Styrofoam balls. Maybe all kids need some kind of messy, squishy, disgusting glop to play with.
 - (C) There are so many types of slime. There is glitter slime and magnetic slime. There is glow-in-the-dark slime. Then there's a weird blood slime you can eat. That one is kind of disgusting!
 - (D) Many kids make their own slime. Now, though, the food company Jell-O has come out with a powdered slime mix. It says the mix is super-easy to make.
- 2 What information will the reader find in the section "Slime Has A Very Fun Feel"?
- (A) lists of the different types of slime kids can buy
 - (B) examples of YouTube celebrities who know all about slime
 - (C) instructions for how to make Jell-O slime
 - (D) events in order that explain the history of slime
- 3 The author has an opinion about slime after playing with it.
Which sentence from the article shows this?
- (A) It's probably because I am not a kid.
 - (B) Now, though, the food company Jell-O has come out with a powdered slime mix.
 - (C) Once I got my hands on some slime, I started to understand why kids go crazy for the stuff.
 - (D) I mashed it up, stretched it thin and let it drip out of my fists.

- 4 Read the selection from the section "Slime Has A Very Fun Feel."

It can be eaten too. If you ask me, though, it tastes sort of odd. It's gloopy, but tastes powdery. The lime flavor is sort of like crushed SweeTarts. The strawberry flavor reminded me of pink, sweet-tasting medicine.

What is the author's point of view about eating Jell-O slime?

- (A) It feels and tastes strange.
- (B) It is better than other candy.
- (C) It should never be eaten.
- (D) It tastes worse than it looks.

Blizzard Bag #1 - Social Studies - 4th grade

Quiz: Introduction to Maps

Name: _____

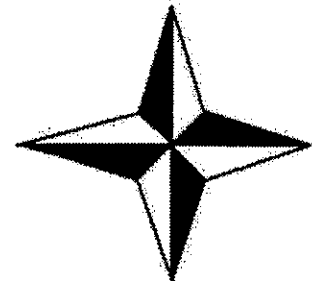
Word Bank

latitude	longitude	four	Equator	Prime Meridian
map key	title	map scale	distance	compass rose

Choose a word from the word bank to complete each sentence. You will use each word once.

1. The _____ tells us what the map is about.
2. The _____ explains what the symbols on the map stand for.
3. The _____ helps us know what direction we need to go on a map.
4. You can use the _____ to know the distance between 2 places on Earth.
5. _____ is the space between one place and another.
6. The continental United States has _____ time zones.
7. Lines of _____ go north and south.
8. Lines of _____ go east and west.
9. The _____ is 0 degrees latitude.
10. The _____ is 0 degrees longitude.

Label the cardinal directions.



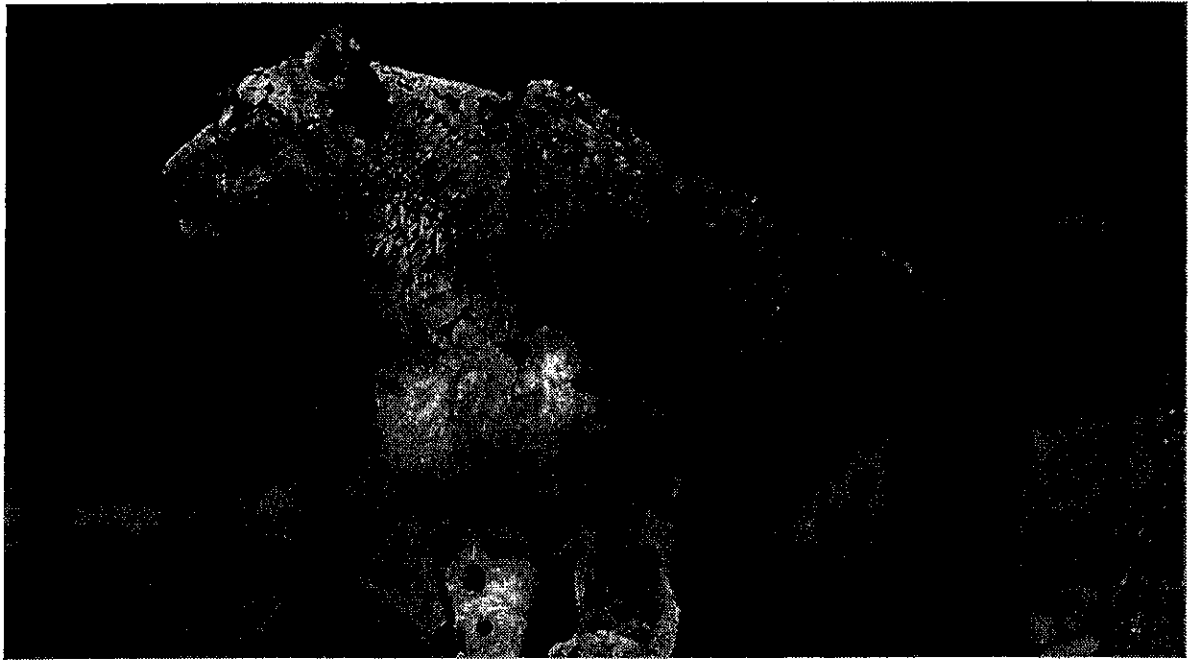
3. Brayden and Gavin were playing touch football against Cole and Fred. Touchdowns were worth 7 points. Brayden and Gavin scored 7 touchdowns. Cole and Fred scored 9 touchdowns. How many points did both teams score in all?

4. On Thursday, the Meat King Market sold 210 pounds of ground beef. On Friday, they sold twice that amount. On Saturday, they only sold 130 pounds. How much more meat did they sell on Friday than Saturday?

Bones from millions of years ago show big cats first roared in Asia

By Los Angeles Times, adapted by Newsela staff on 11.15.13

Word Count **676**



Scientists say the now-extinct *Panthera blytheae* was closely related to the modern snow leopard. Wikimedia Commons

LOS ANGELES — Scientists are studying the bones of a newly discovered kind of ancient leopard. Those bones and other remains are shaking up old ideas. They suggest that big cats first arose in Asia, not Africa.

The new kind of big cat was discovered by paleontologists in Tibet. It was found in 2010. Paleontologists are scientists who study ancient bones known as fossils.

The newly discovered leopard does have one close relative: the modern snow leopard.

The remains of seven cats were found. The fossils range in age from 4.1 million to 5.9 million years old. They are as much as 2 million years older than any big cat fossils previously found.

Ancient Big Cat Roamed Tibet

The new cat is called *Panthera blytheae*. It was slightly smaller than the snow leopard. It probably roamed the Tibetan mountains for several million years. There it ate antelope and other animals.

Paleontologist Zhijie Jack Tseng was the leader of the new study of the fossils. He works at New York's American Museum of Natural History.

The newly found cat is probably part of a separate branch of the cat family, said Tseng. The modern snow leopard is most likely part of the same branch. Both are able to live high in the Tibetan mountains.

Big cats present serious problems for paleontologists. They have existed millions of years longer than people have. But they didn't leave behind many fossils. So there are still many things we don't know about them.

Scientists don't only study big cats by looking at their bones. They also look at their genes, or DNA. To do this, they look at the DNA of living species, or types, of big cat.

The DNA studies show various things. Big cats split off from other cats about 11 million years ago. Then about 6 million years ago another big change occurred. Big cats split into several different species. They became lions, tigers, jaguars and leopards.

A Puzzle To Solve

But there's a problem: What scientists find by looking at big cat DNA doesn't agree with what the fossils tell them. Scientists are hoping to figure out where big cats first appeared. But the two kinds of evidence don't point to the same place.

"If you only looked at the fossil, it would suggest Africa," Tseng said. "If you only looked at DNA, it would suggest Asia." Scientists haven't been able to make the two kinds of evidence match up.

Scientists hope the new fossils will solve this puzzle. Tseng and the others looked at the evolutionary tree for big cats. Evolutionary trees trace which species come from which. They also show where new species split off from older ones.

The scientists made changes to the evolutionary tree based on the new fossils. Then they compared the new tree to the DNA evidence.

What they found supports the DNA-based theory: Big cats most likely originated in Asia.

Fascinated By Snow Leopards

Panthera blytheae was named in honor of Blythe Haaga. She is the daughter of Paul and Heather Haaga. Both parents are longtime supporters of the American Museum of Natural History.

Paul used to work for the museum. He already had the smallest known dinosaur species named for his family. This is known as the *Fruitadens haagarorum*. His wife Heather suggested naming the ancient leopard species for their daughter, Blythe.

As a child, Blythe was fascinated by snow leopards. This began when she was given a stuffed toy snow leopard. She now is a comedian and a writer. She lives in both Chicago and Los Angeles. The family timed the honor for Blythe's 30th birthday.

Blythe found out about her birthday honor on Monday. Just how important the fossils are was kept quiet until the new study was published. "Now I'm super honored," she said when told of the study's findings. "I was just honored before."

The snow leopard "was the stuffed animal that I loved," Blythe said. "Every book report was on snow leopards for a long time after that. It became my fascination for a while."

Quiz

- 1 Which paragraph from the article explains the ways that scientists can learn about the past of the big cats?
- (A) The newly found cat is probably part of a separate branch of the cat family, said Tseng. The modern snow leopard is most likely part of the same branch. Both are able to live high in the Tibetan mountains.
 - (B) Big cats present serious problems for paleontologists. They have existed millions of years longer than people have. But they didn't leave behind many fossils. So there are still many things we don't know about them.
 - (C) Paleontologist Zhijie Jack Tseng was the leader of the new study of the fossils. He works at New York's American Museum of Natural History.
 - (D) Scientists don't only study big cats by looking at their bones. They also look at their genes, or DNA. To do this, they look at the DNA of living species, or types, of big cat.
- 2 Which sentence from the article explains one problem faced by scientists who study the past of the big cats?
- (A) "If you only looked at the fossil, it would suggest Africa," Tseng said.
 - (B) But the two kinds of evidence don't point to the same place.
 - (C) Evolutionary trees trace which species come from which.
 - (D) The scientists made changes to the evolutionary tree based on the new fossils.
- 3 Which sentence from the introduction [paragraphs 1-4] BEST summarizes the article as a whole?
- (A) Those bones and other remains are shaking up old ideas.
 - (B) Scientists are studying the bones of a newly discovered kind of ancient leopard.
 - (C) They suggest that big cats first arose in Asia, not Africa.
 - (D) The newly discovered leopard does have one close relative: the modern snow leopard.

- 4 Which sentence BEST supports the main idea of the article?
- (A) The new cat is called *Panthera blytheae*.
 - (B) The fossils range in age from 4.1 million to 5.9 million years old.
 - (C) They are as much as 2 million years older than any big cat fossils previously found.
 - (D) It was slightly smaller than the snow leopard.