

the Snot goblin



Snotgoblin Science

So what is Snot?

Snot is not just the name of a Snotgoblin is it?

Of course not, it's the runny slimy stuff that comes out of your nose and it also has another name.

It is called mucus. There is mucus all through our bodies – even in our tummies (and not just from swallowing lots of snot!).

Did you know that every day your nose makes about one cup of snot!

We must be making all that snot for something so what do you think it could be for?

Well - Snot keeps us healthy.

When you breath in air there can be all sorts of things in it that you can't see. There are things like dust, pollen, germs and even tiny space particles.

If all of that garbage made it into your lungs they would get pretty clogged up but luckily you have snot. Snot traps all of the rubbish and doesn't let it get to your lungs. So how cool is Snot!



And as for boogies like the ones Snot the Snotgoblin makes into pies well boogies (or boogers) are made when the snot dries out a little bit and gets sort of clumpy. Then all of the bits of rubbish in your nose stick together and make boogies.



There is even a Doctor in Austria who says it could be good for you to eat your boogies – what do your think?

Munching on all that crunch slimy ζ_{1}^{11} dirt?

Do you want to make some really slimy Snot of your own?

Things you will need:

- Cornstarch
- Water
- Green food colouring
- Some cups or containers to put things in something to stir things with
- Measuring cups and spoons

Method:

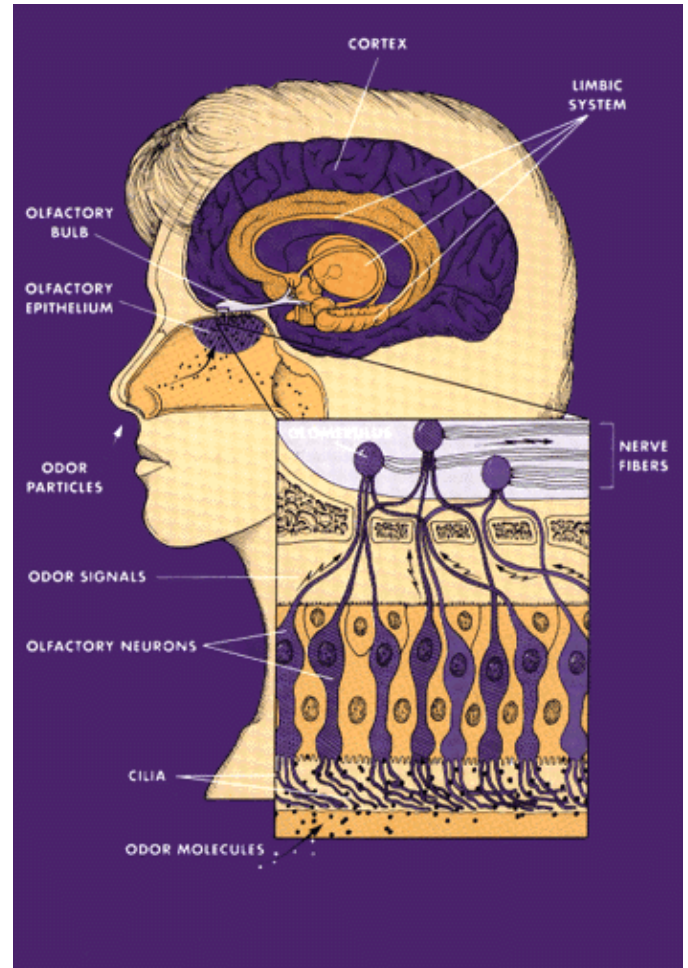
- Add 1 cup of corn starch with 1 cup of water.
- Mix it up using your hands until it feels nice and snotty and slimy. (You can add more cornstarch depending on whether you want runny snot or thick bogey-like snot)
- Add green food colour to get the colour right!

Store in a covered container. It will keep for several days.

What else do you use your nose for (other than producing Snot?)

Your nose does all sorts of wonderful things. It acts kind of like the air conditioner of your body. As you breathe air in your nose makes it all warm and moist before it goes into your lungs. Your nose also removes all of the bacteria and rubbish (which is where snot comes in) .

Here's what your nose looks like on the inside!
When it gets smelly!



What does your nose look like?

Can you draw it or make a model of it?

What do you like using your nose for best of all?

What are your favourite smells?

Who has a really good sense of smell (what

We recognise lots of things by smell (when our nose isn't all stuffed up with Snot). Some smells remind us of things, of memories.



Here's an Experiment you can do with taste

If your nose were a little stuffy, your eyes were closed, and you were not allowed to touch anything with your hands, do you think you could recognise a lemon? How?

That's right – through taste.

Did you know taste works along you're your nose!

Your tongue has special receptors called taste buds that can register sweet, sour, salty, and bitter. The sweet taste is registered on the tip of your tongue, salt on the sides (near the front) and sour is on the sides towards the back. Bitter tastes are registered in the centre at the back.

Although you can tell what something is by just tasting most times we also use our nose, or our sense of smell to detect things at the same time.



Stuff to do:

(You'll need a partner)

One person should hold their nose and close their eyes. The other person will put either a slice of pear or a slice of apple in that persons mouth. Can you tell the apple from the pear with your nose held closed? Probably not. Let go of your nose and see if you can tell then.

Swap and let the other person have a go.

Can you finish these sentences?

1. Where are your taste receptors? _____.
(Tongue)

2. What tastes can it register? _____, _____,
_____, and _____. (sweet, sour, salty, bitter)

3. What else helps you work out tastes? Your
_____. (Nose)

4. What receptors tell the brain what you are smelling? _____ _____. (Olfactory neurons)

Collect some things that you have very distinct smells.

Here are some examples:

Flowers sawdust dirt vanilla onions
garlic perfume (on a tissue)
chewing-gum oranges lemon-peels
apple-cores ginger pine-cones
eucalyptus leaves jasmine incense
pencil-shavings banana bread cheese

Make sure you keep all of the items separate in a plastic-bag or container so all of the smells don't mix.

Put a blindfold on and get someone to hold up each of the things you have brought in.

See if you can identify each item by its smell

What do you think of it? Is it horrible? Strong? Pleasant? Bad? Good?

Tell us about anything the smell reminds you of, any memories you can think of associated with the smell.

Did you know taste is associated with your nose and with

