



## Horrible Science Downloadable Experiments – 1 SQUELCH A BRAIN

*A healthy brain should be as watery as a potato – that's about 80 per cent. Here's how to make your own without cutting anyone's head off!*

YOU CAN FIND THIS AND MANY MORE HORRIBLE BRAIN EXPERIMENTS IN BULGING BRAIN EXPERIMENTS published by Scholastic in 2008.

### WHAT YOU NEED:

BEWARE MESSY EXPERIMENT!

Wear your oldest clothes, put newspaper down and get ready to mop up afterwards!

- A human brain (if you don't have one – you'll need the following)
- Salt
- Instant potato flakes
- Spoon for mixing
- Two large freezer bags (ideally ones that you can seal such as a ziplock bag)
- Kitchen scales
- Measuring jug
- Red food colour (not vital)

### WHAT YOU DO:

1 Measure 175 g of potato flakes and put them in one bag.

2 Add 400 g of salt.

3 Pour in 600 ml of hot water from the tap. BE CAREFUL! Hot water can scald you!

4 Feel free to add a couple of drops of blood, sorry red food colour into the jug. This will give your brain a cheerful pink colour. Be careful – food colour can stain fingers and clothes.

5 Place your bag of brain mixture inside the second bag – the blood makes it



feel delightfully squashy. Squish the revolting mixture in the bag until it's thoroughly mixed.

### WHAT HAPPENS:

CONGRATULATIONS – you're holding a blob that feels and weighs the same as a brain. You may like to sculpt it into a brain shape and let your family have a squish too. Here's

what my brain looked like (my homemade one, silly not my real one!) notice the bottle of blood, I mean food colouring next to it!



THIS IS BECAUSE:

The brain weighs about 1,280 grams. A fresh brain is reddish-pink owing to the blood it contains. Stored brains get that well-known grey colour from billions of nerve cells or neurons. They're your brain's vital wiring – the stuff that you think with...

**Bet you never knew!**

Fresh brains pong like blue cheese. Feel free to add blue cheese to your brain mixture for that extra dash of realism. And if you fancy touching another brain, try prodding the top of a large mushroom. It feels frighteningly like a real brain.

