Quicksand



Imagine walking on the beach. Suddenly, the sand under your feet starts to move! You've stepped in a pool of quicksand! What should you do? Will you sink, like people do in the movies?

You might start to sink, but don't worry. If you **relax**, quicksand is not very **dangerous**. Spread out your arms and legs. Stay mostly **still**. You will slowly **float** to the top of the quicksand. Then you can **crawl** out.

Quicksand is just sand mixed with a lot of water. You can find it on the **shores** of rivers and streams. If you see a **patch** of very wet sand, **toss** a **pebble** into it. If the pebble sinks right away, you've found quicksand.

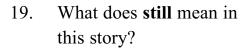
Why do things sink in quicksand? Because quicksand is so full of water, the **grains** of sand do not stick together to make **solid ground**. So the quicksand acts more like water than sand.

Quicksand is easy to make. Put some sand in a bowl. Add water until it just covers the sand. **Stir** hard. Now you have a bowl of quicksand!

words read

Quick Quiz

- 17. What is the main idea of *Quicksand*?
 - o. Quicksand is sand and water and is not very dangerous.
 - p. In movies, quicksand makes people sink.
 - q. Quicksand is fast and easy to make.
- 18. What should you do if you start to sink in quicksand?
 - f. stay mostly still
 - g. start to swim out
 - h. grab onto a nearby branch



- r. even so
- s. not moving
- t. until now



- 20. Why isn't quicksand very dangerous?
 - n. People can't actually sink in quicksand.
 - o. It is very rare to find quicksand.
 - p. You can get out of quicksand if you know what to do.

Talk about what you learned

Why do you think many people worry when they are around quicksand?

