

# Quicksand



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

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

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

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

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

180

words read  
 - errors  
 = score

# 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
19. What does **still** mean in this story?
- 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?