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!
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?