

July 2012

# StoryTrails

Investigate your world through art and nature

If you enjoyed The Day-Glo Brothers, then explore more stories of inventors and the art and science of color with these books and resources!

What a Bright Idea!



## Recommended Reading

Shark Vs. Train and Can I See Your I.D.? by Chris Barton

Girls Think of Everything: Stories of Ingenious Inventions by Women  
by Catherine Thimmesh and Melissa Sweet

The Kid who Invented the Popsicle by Don L. Wulffson

The Boy Who Invented TV by Kathleen Krull and Greg Couch

## Links

Chris Barton: Author's Website - <http://www.chrisbarton.info>

More from the author about how light and color work -

[http://charlesbridge.com/client/client\\_pages/day-glo-brothers/day-glo-home.html](http://charlesbridge.com/client/client_pages/day-glo-brothers/day-glo-home.html)

Exploring Inventors with MIT (interactive games) - <http://web.mit.edu/invent/g-main.html>

Recommended resources about invention from the Smithsonian's Lemelson Center for kids -

[http://invention.smithsonian.org/resources/sites\\_teachers.aspx](http://invention.smithsonian.org/resources/sites_teachers.aspx)

PBS Kids' Design Squad - <http://pbskids.org/designsquad/>

## Activity to Try at Home: Flourescent Slime!

Create your own flourescent slime with everyday materials.

Materials: Liquid white glue      Water      Liquid laundry starch      Wooden stir stick (disposable)  
Fluorescent sparkles      Food coloring      Black light      Zippered plastic bags

To Do:

Easy: Mix 2/3 cup of liquid white glue and 2/3 cup of water. Use a wooden stick to slowly stir in 2/3 cup of liquid laundry starch. Add a few drops of neon-hued food coloring and you're done. The slime glob will look like a thick puddle and is suitable to be mashed and thrashed by young children.

Complex: Mix a batch of powdered Borax laundry booster following the directions on the box. Add 1/2 cup of white liquid glue to 1/2 cup of the starch mixture. Add 6 to 10 drops of lime green food color as the mixture is prepared. As the final step, mix in fluorescent sparkles. Shine the black light on the slime. This slime is suitable for making a plastic container toy (such as a "bag of slime"). Once the slime has clumped, place it directly into the plastic zippered bag. Seal the zipper with glue. Children should not mix the slime with bare hands since the laundry booster may create allergic reactions.



What stories does a clay pot tell?  
Find out August 19 and experiment  
with clay yourself!