

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?