



What Is Quicksand?

Part 1

Teacher Reads Imagine this. You are walking on a sandy beach. Suddenly, you feel a wet mixture of sand and water under your feet and you begin to sink into the QUICKSAND. Stories tell you that you will drown in the quicksand, but is that true? Read on to find out.

The real facts about quicksand are not so awful. If you
11 happen to step into quicksand, you will begin to sink.
21 However, you will never be sucked in all the way. Quicksand
32 itself does not have that kind of pull or force. Plus, it is not
46 very deep. You might sink up to your knees or waist. In fact,
59 people cannot sink all the way under quicksand.



Part 2

Teacher Reads Keep reading to find out what quicksand is made of and where it can be found.

67 Quicksand and normal sand are alike in some ways, but
77 they are different in one main way. Quicksand is mixed with
88 a lot of water. It is mostly found in places where water flows
101 under the ground, such as by rivers, lakes, and streams.

111 Why do things sink in quicksand? Because quicksand
119 is soaked with water, the grains of sand don't stick to each
131 other to form a solid base. Quicksand acts more like water
142 than like normal sand that is packed solid. That is why
153 people can float in quicksand in the same way they can float
165 in a pool of water.

170 Often, a marker is set up to alert people that quicksand is
182 close by. That way, people can avoid the problem. However, if
193 there is no marker and you think you see quicksand, you can
205 test the sand with a long stick or pole. If the stick sinks, then
219 you know you have found quicksand.

Part 3

Teacher Reads If you do step into quicksand, you can escape from it. Read on to find out what you should do.

225 What if you step into quicksand? Many experts give this
235 advice. The number one thing is to not get upset or worked
247 up. Breathe deeply. If you lean back, you can soon start to
259 make slow circles with your arms and legs. This will loosen
270 the quicksand around you. Then you can slowly crawl out of
281 the slushy quicksand. You may end up looking like a muddy
292 mess, but you will have a thrilling story to tell! [Learn More](#)
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