

## Cooking With Science: How to Make An Earth Cake

*Genesis 1 - Obviously science can explain how the earth was created. And if it were possible to put the theory to the test, clever scientists could replicate planet earth by following their own instructions on how it came to be.*

*Scene: TV cookery programme: table covered with table cloth draping down enough to hide what's underneath the table. Big mixing bowl and wooden spoon. Measuring jug with black gloop (beat egg and black paint) in it. Measuring jug with dust from vacuum cleaner in it. Jug containing pond slime (washing up liquid). 2 large knives for cutting cakes. 2 small plates with cake forks. 2 cake tins. A lovely looking gateaux hidden from site by an upside down cake tin or similar over the top of it. Under the table on plates have 2 flat, burnt awful looking cake sponges.*

*Enter cookery programme host, wearing an apron.*

**Host:** Hello, and welcome to this week's edition of "Cooking With Science"! Today we are going to be following a recipe from the "Big Bumper Book of Unquestionable Science" to create our very own Earth Cake.

I have the ingredients here: dust and other important particles [*contents of Hoover bag*] and some cosmic gloop [*beat egg with black paint in*] to hold it all together. Mix it all up into a smooth consistency, spoon into greased tins and pop it in the oven at gas mark 5 for 10 to 20 billion years [*use under the table as oven*]. During this cooking time all the ingredients will make their way to their correct positions of inner and outer core, crust and aura, and generally expand in to a lovely perfect Earth Cake.

[*looking at watch*] Clearly we can't wait for that length of time during the course of this programme, so here's one I made earlier. [*getting really unappealing flat, burnt sponges from under the table*] As your Earth Cake cools down it will become more attractive and appealing with soft bits and crunchy bits, just like in my example. [*pouring green slime from jug on top of bottom sponge, putting other sponge on top and pouring more green slime on top*] This slime from the bottom of a pond, being in an enclosed environment, is going to evolve into butter-icing. However this slime, knowing its' prominent place in the order of things, is going to evolve into whipped cream.

*Enter Person2 takes cover off the nice looking gateaux.*

**Host:** What's that?

**Person2:** It's an Earth Cake

**Host:** Did you make it?

**Person2:** No, God made it

**Host:** Oh, God made it! Of course he did! And the Cake Baking Pixies made mine!

**Person2:** They didn't make a very good job of it...

**Host:** This Earth Cake has been made using scientifically proven methods. That Earth Cake [*pointing at the perfect gateaux*] is a myth

**Person2:** It looks like the real deal to me. Why don't we try each other's cakes?

*Host picks up a large knife in a threatening fashion, but then uses it to cut slice from horrible looking earth cake, puts it on a small plate with a fork and pass it to Person2. Person2 slices lovely gateaux and passes it on a plate to Host. Person2 lifts fork to mouth with some cake on it but at last second can't go through with it.*

**Person2:** I can't swallow that!

*Host is clearly enjoying gateaux but doesn't want to say so*

**Host:** Yours can't be better than mine! You can't explain how to make it! Yours doesn't make sense! I'm right because I have a recipe!

**Person2:** Your recipe doesn't come together as well as you'd like it to. But look how perfect this one is [*pointing at gateaux*] The proof is in the pudding...