



Amazon Adventure

Day 3

TK-3RD GRADE

GAME TIME

(20 min)

Materials:

- Jump rope



STEM STORY

(10 min)



STEM TIME

(60 min)

Materials:

- Play dough
- Cookie cutters (condiment cups) straws for rolling
- Sprinkles (Optional)
- Measuring cup or graduated cylinder
- Flour, salt, water

CANDY CANE JUMP

Say: **Reindeer practice time! Santa's candy cane is whirling—only the fastest jumpers will stay in the game.** Have the students form a circle in a large open area. For larger groups, multiple circles can be formed, and there can be multiple games going at once. One student will be the candy cane spinner. The candy cane spinner will have a jump rope, and they will stand and spin in the jump rope around in the middle of the circle. As the spinner spins the rope, the players who have formed the circle will need to hop over the rope as it comes to them. If the rope touches them, they are out. The candy cane spinner can change things up by spinning at different speeds and heights, but for safety reasons, the rope must not come higher than the players' knees.

READ 'GRANDMA'S COOKIES'

Read the STEM Taught Story titled 'Grandma's Cookies' and spend time talking about the different textures and looking at the illustrations.

Say: **Sometimes, we can smell delicious cookies baking even before we see them. And when we eat them, we can feel different textures. Some are smooth. Some are bumpy. What would it be like to sense things without sight? Today we are going to create a fun mystery challenge and understand how we use lots of senses to understand the world.**

MAKE CHRISTMAS COOKIES WITH SALT DOUGH

Preparation:

Use play dough or make some salt dough to make fun pretend cookies!

What you'll do: Make Believe Play

Encourage students to have fun with imaginative play. They can open a bakery and go around and take orders from students or have fun pretend shopping at the classmates stands. They can sell their cookies, just remind them to not eat them.

STEM TIME

(Continued)



1. Demonstrate to students how to take a small piece of the dough, and make a little letter. Roll or pat out a flat shape and use cookie cutters, or roll the dough into a worm to manipulate into letter shapes. Show students how to smash it down gently with their palm.
2. Students can add fun sprinkles!

Optional if you want to make more dough:

1. Mix 1 cup salt and 1/2 cup warm water.
2. Mix in 1 cup of flour with a spoon, squishing until it becomes doughy.

Note: You can involve students in making salt dough and show them a pictorial recipe. Say: **In science, it is important to measure very carefully.** Call on student volunteers to help you measure. Another student can carefully pour warm water from a pitcher into the 1/2 cup measuring cup. Ask for stirrers, sprinklers, and kneaders! Have fun making the dough!

ART TIME

(80 min)

Materials:

- Popsicle sticks
- Rubber bands
- Paper bags or boxes and paint
- Paper cup for water
- Optional: Scissors for harvesting

**MAKE A PAINTBRUSH WITH NATURAL MATERIALS**

Watch this video to help visualize the project. Instead of twigs your box contains popsicle sticks, but you can use twigs as well!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NTQy5MIAojw>

Say: **At Christmas, many of us decorate with colorful lights, ornaments, and wrapping paper. But did you know that some people create their festive cheer using only nature?**

Indigenous communities in the Amazon have long used the forest as their art supply. They make natural paints from crushed seeds, fruits, clay, and charcoal. For brushes, they use sticks, plant fibers, or even feathers. These tools help them paint faces, decorate homes, and tell stories—each mark is a way to connect with their traditions.

What you'll do:

1. Take students outside and let them collect a variety of natural materials. Let them take their time and have fun exploring.
2. Compliment what they find. Encourage them to explore different kinds of texture and foliage. For instance: grass blades, bushes, spruce tips, leaves, ferns, seed clusters dried leaves, exposed roots etc. Students trim or pull the material (a little bit is enough).

STEM TIME

(Continued)

STEM GAME

(40-60 min)

Materials:

- Paper bags/boxes
- Scissors
- Mystery items
- A blindfold (or just close your eyes)

**STEM TIME**

(20 min)

3. Secure the materials to their popsicle stick with rubber bands. These brushes will be used for the next game.

4. Students work in groups of 2 to 4. Each group gets a box or bag. They work together to explore their brushes and create festive holiday marks or anything they would like. These decorated boxes or bags will be used in the next activity.

**WHAT'S INSIDE THE MYSTERY CHRISTMAS HAMPER?**

Ask: **Have you ever picked up a gift and tried to guess what's inside, without peeking? How did you do it?** Example: **I rattled it and listened to see what kind of sound it made. I felt the shape with my fingers.**

Say: **Today, we're creating a fun mystery Christmas hamper!**

Instructions:

- Students work in their groups.
- Give the students 30 minutes or so to go outside or walk around the classroom to find the items they want to put in their bags. They should be small enough to fit in the bag.
- Once all of the groups have prepared their bags, have everyone take turns going to each group's mystery bags!
- Remind students that they cannot look inside the bag. They may either shut their eyes or use a blindfold if needed. Remind them to use all their senses of touch, smell, and hearing. Have fun trying to guess the objects!

Ask: **What sense did you use the most?** Example: **My sense of touch.**

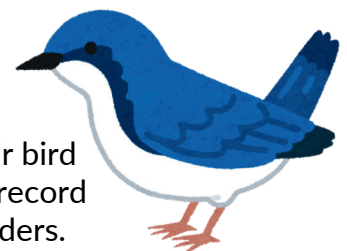
Ask: **What are some words you might use to describe how something feels?** Example: **Some things felt smooth/rough, sticky, small, soft, etc.**

Ask: **What other senses helped you identify the mystery objects?**

Example: **There was a smell or a sound it made.**

OBSERVE YOUR BIRD FEEDER**Instructions:**

Take students outside to visit and observe their bird feeders. Allow them to take time to make and record observations of any birds visiting their bird feeders.





CANDY CANE JUMP

STEM STORY + CHRISTMAS HAMPER



MAKE PAINT BRUSHES



CHRISTMAS COOKIES



BIRD FEEDER OBSERVATION



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METRIC

Physical Development Foundation 1.5 Jumping

Jump on two feet for height and distance with increased competence, including jumping up from the ground or down off a raised surface. Swing arms to propel themselves while jumping.

Science Foundation 4.1 Characteristics of Earth Materials

Investigate and describe the characteristics of earth materials and compare and contrast materials based on their different features (for example, size, weight, shape, color, texture).

Language Foundation 3.3 Understanding Stories

Demonstrate understanding of major characters and events in an English- language story, including details that are conveyed only through the words of the story, after experiencing it for the first time.

Social Science Foundation 3.4 Contributing to the Group

Contribute ideas, work toward group efforts, and show awareness of their individual contribution to collective group projects alongside adults and peers.

2-PS1-1.

Plan and conduct an investigation to describe and classify different kinds of materials by their observable properties.

K-2-ETS1-1.

Ask questions, make observations, and gather information about a situation people want to change to define a simple problem that can be solved through the development of a new or improved object or tool.

Visual Arts Foundation 1.5 Using Visual Arts Materials

Use a range of materials to create two-dimensional art.

Science Foundation 1.7 Using Tools

Identify and use some observation and measurement tools, with adult support.

Visual Arts Foundation 1.4 Working with Dough or Clay

Make representational forms that are mostly recognizable out of play dough or clay using their hands or simple tools.

Science Foundation 1.1 Making Observations

Observe and actively explore objects and events using their senses and describe their observations in greater detail.

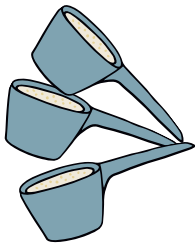




Cookie Recipe



Supplies



Measuring Cups



1 Cup
Flour



1 Cup
Salt



1/2 Cup
Warm Water



Cookie Cutters
(Optional)

Instructions

1. Mix 1 cup salt and 1/2 cup warm water.
2. Mix in 1 cup of flour with a spoon, squishing until it becomes doughy. Sprinkle more flour on top if you need.
3. Using a small piece of dough, roll or pat a flat shape or use cookie cutters to make letters or Christmas shapes!
4. Move the students' salt dough cookie creations over to the designated spot to dry.

Optional: Take out student aprons or cover the work surface with a table cloth. Creating a designated spot for drying dough with students' names is beneficial.

Additional note: If you live in a humid environment, you may need to bake the salt dough creations in the oven for 1 hour at 160 degrees Fahrenheit.

