

# MAKE A LANDFORM

Grades K-3



## MAKE A LANDFORM USING SALT DOUGH

Students will make a landform using salt dough

### CIAO!

10 min

#### Ciao is Italian for hello!

Greet your students. Be friendly. Use their name, ask a question, give a high five, or thumbs-up! Take roll. Mark down which students took a snack and tally how many snacks were given out.

### STORY & SNACK

20 min

#### Read the story:

Today's story is called The Map that Changed the World. Read the story to your students outside as they sit in a circle.

### SPORTS/GAMES

30 min

#### Turtle Tag

The object of this game is to try to not get tagged! In this game of tag, students will play as turtles

Instructions- One or two students will be chosen to be the taggers. They can choose to be an animal from the story if they'd like. All other students will be turtles. To play, the students will run all around the playing field as the tagger tries to tag them. When the tagger tags a student, the student has to freeze and drop to the ground and lay on their back with their arms and legs in the air like a turtle who has fallen on their shell. To unfreeze and reenter the game, another student must come and roll the student over. Then they may get up and keep running. While a student is rolling over a peer they cannot be tagged by the tagger.

### STEM TIME

50 min

#### Make a Landform:

In this lab students will be making landforms and bodies of water using salt dough. They will also hide a mini treasure, such as a bean or bead somewhere in the landscape! They will then use paper and a pencil to make a map of where to find the treasure in their creation, and mark where to find the treasure with an X. Students will use a model to show how different landforms and bodies of water are shaped.



## STEM TIME

50 min

### Materials:

- Large bowl
- Large spoon
- Green and blue food coloring  
(Students will be making natural and colored salt dough)  
Each student will need
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 cups salt
- 2 cups warm water
- Paper plate  
Shaping materials, such as toothpicks or plastic knives.
- Pencil and paper for map

### Explain:

What types of features can you think of that can be found near each other? (Oceans often touch bays, peninsulas and islands. Rivers and lakes are often near mountains and hills.) Pick three features that you want to make first and think about how they could all fit together. If you finish that then you can add more if you want.

Today we get to make our landforms. Landform will you make?

When you are done with your landform draw a map of your landscape showing the location of your treasure. Have a friend see if they can guess where the treasure is! Label the landforms and bodies of water on your map.

### Instructions:

Allow students to push their desks together in groups of 4 or move to a larger table to share materials. Working near each other also encourages discussion between students of what they could make and how they could shape it. Each student gets a paper plate and uses the dough.

Tips: If creating ocean shapes, students may find it easier to start with a thin flat piece of blue dough, then add other dough over it to shape the edges of land. If creating mountains and rivers they may find it easier to make the land first and add blue dough where they want over it. If they want to be creative and make lava coming out of a volcano they could use a red marker to color over the natural colored dough.

1. In a large bowl, stir together 2 cups of salt and 1 cup of warm water.
2. Slowly stir in the 2 cups of flour to the salt and water mixture.
3. Knead the mixture by hand to better combine the ingredients. The mixture should become doughy; add more flour if needed.
4. Divide the dough into three roughly equal portions.
5. Keep one of the portions naturally colored, set it aside. Add a couple drops of blue color to one portion and a couple drops of green to the last portion. A little food coloring can go a long way! You can always add more if it is not bright enough.
6. Knead the color into the dough portions until most of the dough has color throughout. Wear gloves if you want!

### Ask:

"Which color dough will you use to represent water? What could green or brown dough represent?"

"Which feature is the hardest to shape?"

### Instructions:

Say - "Today we got to do a fun activity full of creating our own landforms. Write a journal entry about your experience."

### Clean up/Free play/Dismissal

Allow your students some free time. Some students may wish to finish working on their STEM project. Others may want to journal or scrapbook about their day. Other students may want to go outside to play. Clean up, pack up.

## NATURE JOURNALING

15 min

## CLEAN UP / FREE PLAY

25 min

