

Clay Earth Models

Objective

Get students to actively think about the world and its physical attributes while using this hands-on activity to encourage creativity.

Materials

Circular discs 6" in diameter 1 per student (should be cardboard or on something that can support the weight of the clay)

Green, brown, blue, Recipe included
and white clay

Time—Approximately 2 hours

Lesson Plan

1. Pass out the circular discs to the students, explaining that they will be making models of the earth on the disc using clay. Their models should be what they think the earth looks like, perhaps a view of the earth from a distance such as from a spaceship. Showing them a globe might also give them an idea of what their model of the earth should look like. Tell them that they can be as creative as they want, but

they will have to explain their creation to the class when they are done.

2. Give them portions of each color of clay and tell them to get started.

Walk around the classroom giving them encouragement and allowing them free reign over their sculptures. Suggest that they take physical attributes of the earth, such as mountains and the ocean, into consideration as they build their sculptures.

3. When most students are done with their models, tell them that they have five minutes before their presentations will begin.
4. For the presentations, tell them to briefly tell the class about their sculptures.
5. After everyone has had a chance to present their sculptures, have the class set them aside to dry, so they can take them home and share them with their families.
6. Conclude the lesson with a message about how everyone sees the world differently. Isn't it interesting to see how everyone in the class sees the world?

Recipe for Clay

Ingredients

- 2 cups flour
- 1 cup salt
- 4 teaspoons cream of tartar
- 2 tablespoons oil
- 2 cups of water
- Food coloring to make brown, blue, and green clay

Directions

- Mix the water and food coloring together first.
- Combine the rest of the ingredients in a saucepan.
- Cook over medium heat until mixture becomes cooked and thick.
- Allow to cool.
- Knead and store in plastic bags in the refrigerator.

Pattern for the discs

