

NATURE IMPRESSIONS

Let's make an impression! First, we'll make homemade salt dough. Then we will collect rocks, leaves, and other pieces of nature to press into the salt dough and make a nature impression.

BEFORE YOU GET STARTED

Recommended Ages: Grades 2 - 8

Estimated Time: 20 - 30 minutes

Stuff you'll need:

- 3 cups flour
- 1 cup salt
- 1 cup water
- Food coloring (optional)
- Electric Mixer
- Parchment paper or aluminum foil

Caregivers should consider: Adult supervision is required when utilizing appliances such as an electric mixer or the oven. Care should be taken to follow all safety guidelines when going outside.

THE FUN PART

1. Take a walk and collect rocks, plants, grass, and other nature objects.
2. Mix the flour and salt together in a large mixing bowl.
3. Add 1 cup of water to the flour mixture.
Optional: To make colored salt dough, add 15 drops of food coloring to the water before mixing it into the dough.
4. Use the electric mixer to mix the dough on medium speed until a ball forms. If the dough is dry, slowly add water (1 tablespoon at a time) until the dough comes together.
5. Remove the dough and knead it until smooth.
6. Form the dough into discs and make your impressions. Gently press your nature object into the dough disc, making sure not to press all the way through the dough.
7. Use the eraser end of a pencil to make a hole at the top of the disc.
8. With adult help, preheat the oven to 275 degrees.
9. Bake dough pieces on a parchment paper or aluminum foil lined baking sheet for 2 hours. Cool completely before handling.
10. Thread a string through the hole and tie a knot
11. Now you can hang up your nature impression and bring a bit of the outdoors inside!
12. Way to go! You did it! Share on social media with your caregiver's permission. Use the hashtag #GSGIDIY

**BADGE OR JOURNEY
STEPS COMPLETED**

Junior Outdoor Art – Step 2

