

Curriculum topics:

- Creativity
- Expression
- Problem Solving
- Patterning
- Geometry
- Measurement

Subjects:
Mathematics, Art

Grade range:
Pre-K – 2

Who we are:

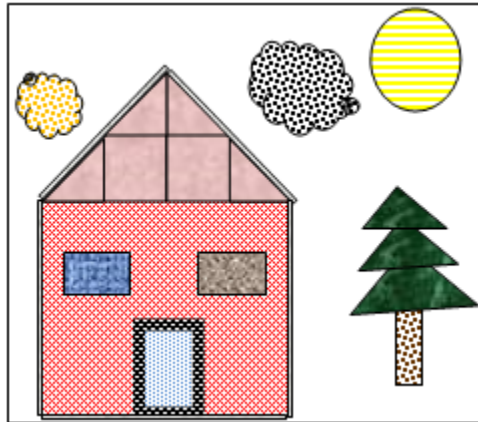
Resource Area for Teaching (RAFT) helps educators transform the learning experience through affordable “hands-on” activities that engage students and inspire the joy and discovery of learning.

For more ideas and to see RAFT Locations

www.raft.net/visit-raft-locations

SAND MOSAIC

Design a work of art!



Design and create an original piece of art incorporates different materials and textures in this fun activity combining math and art.

Materials required

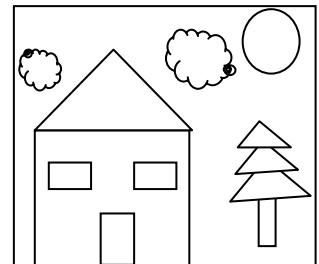
- Sand, colored in 3-4 colors (see RAFT idea sheet **Sand Art** for a technique to make colored sand)
- Transparency, 1 per student
- Shapes (including squares, triangles, circles, rhombuses), small, cut out of foam or tissue paper, ~8 per student
- Glue, clear-drying, tacky preferred
- Paint brush or foam piece to apply glue
- Spoon, plastic, small
- Pen, blue or black
- Newspaper
- Optional: string, yarn, narrow straws, and other materials
- Optional: small containers to hold sand

WARNING:
CHOKING HAZARD—Small parts
Not for children under 3 yrs.

To do and notice

Cover work area with newspaper.

- 1** Choose 4-6 shapes to use in design.
- 2** Choose 2-3 colors of sand.
- 3** Draw a design on a transparency incorporating shapes, sand, and any other materials.



Curriculum Standards:

Gross Motor & Fine Motor Skills
(Early Education: Desired Results Dev. Profile (DRDP-R), Physical Development, 38 & 40)

Problem solving, Memory & Knowledge, Curiosity & initiative
(Early Education: Desired Results Dev. Profile (DRDP-R), Cognitive Development, 28, 29, & 30)

Shared use of space and materials
(Early Education: Desired Results Dev. Profile (DRDP-R), Self & Social Development, 12)

Geometric Shapes
(Common Core Math Standards: Grade K, Geometry, 1-6)

Patterns
(Common Core Math Standards: Measurement and Data, Grade 1, 4.1)

Problem Solving and Reasoning
(Common Core Math Standards: Mathematical Practices Grades K -2)

Experiment with forms, structures, materials, concepts, media, and art-making approaches
(National Visual Arts Standards: Creating – Organize and develop artistic ideas and work, Grades Pre K-2)

To do and notice (continued):

- 4** Use paintbrush/foam piece/fingers to apply glue to areas on the transparency that will be covered by one color of sand in the design. Use spoon to sprinkle that color of sand over the glue. Let dry for 2 minutes. Shake off excess sand, over newspaper. Repeat for other sand colors.
- 5** Apply glue to the back of a shape, place on design, press down firmly. Repeat with remaining shapes.
- 6** After glue is dry, 10 min or more, show and talk about art to other students.

The content behind the activity

Creative art is another avenue for students' expression. Providing different materials aids teachers in encouraging students to create designs that can represent a real object, place, or living thing or an abstract design.

Rather than creating art based on someone else's suggestion, students experience the design process:

- 1) have an idea
- 2) plan a design
- 3) create that design

This activity also provides a space where students can practice using positional words and math vocabulary to describe their mosaic.

Learn more

- Make different patterns using different material, such as fabric, feathers, and yarn.
- Create designs on the outside of a container.
- Explore the use of sand art in different cultures.

Related activities: See RAFT Idea Sheets:

Sand Art –

<http://www.raft.net/ideas/Sand Art.pdf>

Tile Patterns Aplenty –

<http://www.raft.net/ideas/Tile Patterns Aplenty.pdf>

Resources

Visit www.raft.net/raft-idea?isid=732 for “how-to” video demos & more ideas! See these websites for more information on the following topics:

- **California Preschool Learning Foundations -**
<http://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/cd/re/psfoundations.asp>