

Paint for Everyone

Express Yourself Using Homemade Paint

Painting has been around for over 40,000 years, and it remains a popular mode for expression and communication. In this activity, students are tasked with making homemade paint out of household goods.

Activity Challenge

Create paint using simple materials and paint an original piece of art.

Preparation

1. Identify a flat working space and cover it with old newspaper, or scrap paper.
2. Review the Materials Needed list and gather all materials.

To Do

1. Mix flour and salt together using the spoon.
2. Add water to flour and salt. Mix together until the substance is smooth and without clumps. Add more water (1 teaspoon at a time) if substance is too thick.
3. Divide into three cups and drop 3-5 drops of food coloring into each cup. Stir until the paint is well blended.
4. Test out the paint and create an original painting.

Observations

What happens to the consistency of flour when water is added? What happens to the color of the paint when more drops of food coloring are added? What can be added to the substance to make it the consistency you'd like it to be?

Extensions

- Make paint using RAFT's That's Berry Pretty Learning Activity Sheet.
- Mix more than one color to make other colors.
- Find other household items that can be used to make paint.

The Science behind the Activity

Materials, like flour and salt, react physically when mixed with certain liquids, like water. Mixing flour and water is a physical change. If one were to evaporate or remove the water after mixing the two together, one will still have the original flour. When flour is mixed with water, it forms a mixture called suspension. Suspensions form when the solute (flour) cannot dissolve in the solvent (the water).

Materials Needed

- ½ cup of flour
- ½ cup of salt
- ½ cup of water
- Food coloring (3 different colors)
- Bowl
- Spoon
- Paper
- 3 cups
- Paint Brush
- Old newspapers or scrap paper
- Paper

Grade Range

Pre-K
K-2
3-5
6-8

Topics/Skills

Physical Science; Properties of Matter; Measurement

Learning Standards

[National Core Art Standards](#)

NGSS: [Physical Science](#)

CCSS: [Measurement and Data](#)

Duration

30 minutes

Prep Time

10 minutes