River of ice activity

Glaciers have a big effect on landforms. Their weight and movement cause changes to the ground under them. This activity will show you some of the ways glaciers change the surface of Earth.



Steps

- 1. Flatten a small ball of clay onto the tray.
- 2. Move the ice cube back and forth over the clay several times. Look for changes in the surface of the clay.
 - 3. Now place some sand on top of the clay. Put the ice cube on top of the sand and leave it for one minute.
 - 4. Pick up the ice cube and look at the side that was touching the sand. What do you see?
 - 5. Place the sandy ice cube back on the clay. Press it down, and move it back and forth several times.
 - 6. Remove the ice cube. Use a paper towel to gently brush the sand off the clay.

Asking questions

- What changes did you notice on the surface of the clay after you rubbed the sandy ice cube on it?
- What do you think would happen if the sand was replaced with bigger rocks?
- How does this activity teach us how glaciers change the surface of Earth?

Make a River

What you need:

- a strong piece of cardboard
- · a bucket of sand
- a block of wood or a box
- a full pitcher of water

What you do:

- 1. Work outside! Wet the sand in the bucket.
- 2. Put the sand on the cardboard. Make hills and valleys so it looks like a real landscape.
- 3. Put the block or box under one end of the cardboard so it tilts slightly.
- 4. Slowly pour the pitcher of water on the high end of the sandy landscape.
- 5. Watch how the water travels and cuts the quickest path to the bottom. Notice how water carries sand with it.
- 6. Make a new landscape and try tilting the landscape to the right or left. See if anything different happens.

What do you think will happen to your sandy landscape if you pour more slowly or more quickly?

What do you think will happen if you pour water on dirt, rock, or concrete?

Making models

Earth is made up of many landforms. You can make your own model out of salt dough to see and better understand some of Earth's landforms.



Steps

- 1. Search on the Internet for photos of "Physical Maps."
- 2. Choose a region or country to model. Try to find an area with at least four landforms.
- 3. Draw or trace the shape of your area on the cardboard.
- 4. Press some of the salt dough onto the cardboard. Flatten it to the outline of your region.
- 5. Using the map to guide you, add dough to build up raised landforms, such as hills, mountains, and plateaus.
- 6. Shape low landforms such as rivers and valleys.
- 7. Let your model dry for about 1 or 2 days.
- 8. Paint your landforms. Use different colors. Water can be blue. Then use different colors for higher sections. Green can be the lowest land, then yellow, then orange, and red for the highest land.
- 9. Add a color key to tell others what the colors mean.

Steps for Watercolor Painting



Score and Slip

1. Score (scratch) both pieces of clay with a fork or another tool.



2. Apply slip to both pieces of clay.



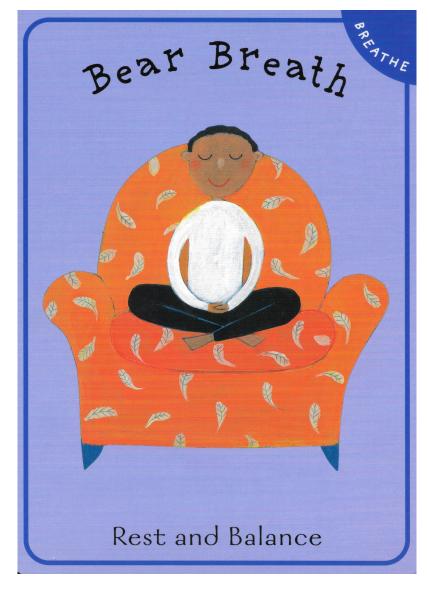
3. Press the two pieces together.

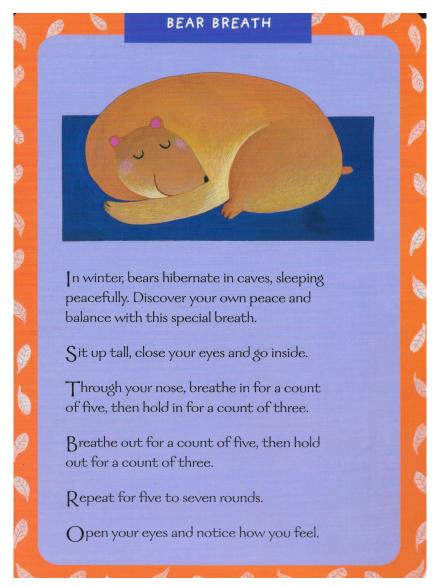


4. Now the two pieces are attached!

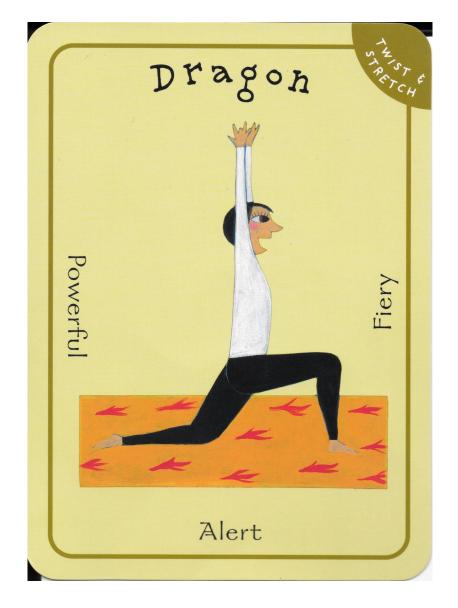


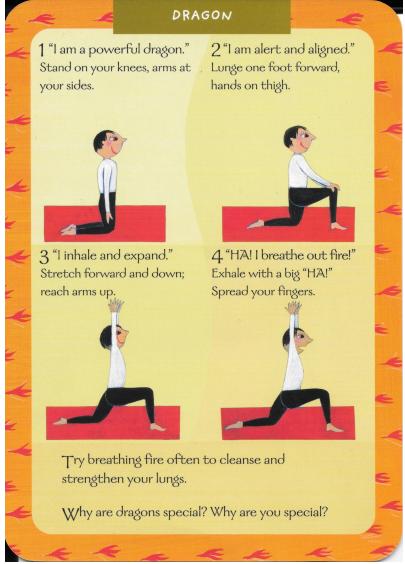
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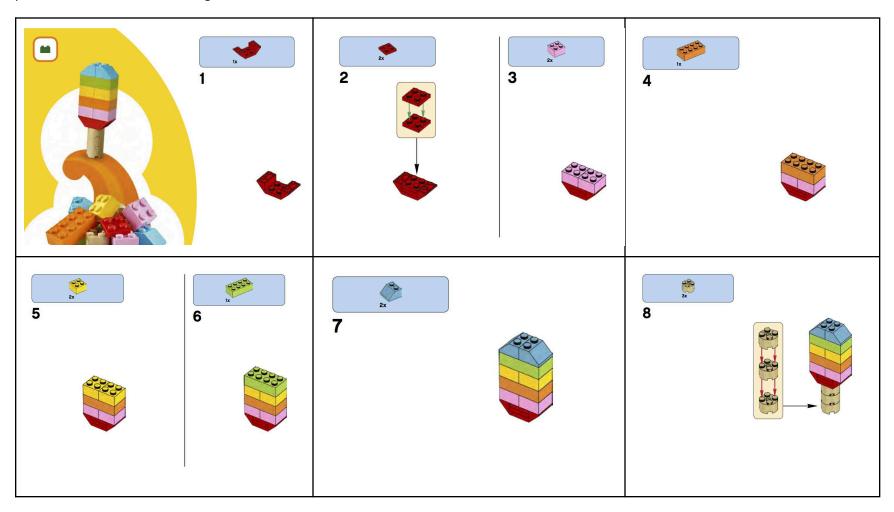
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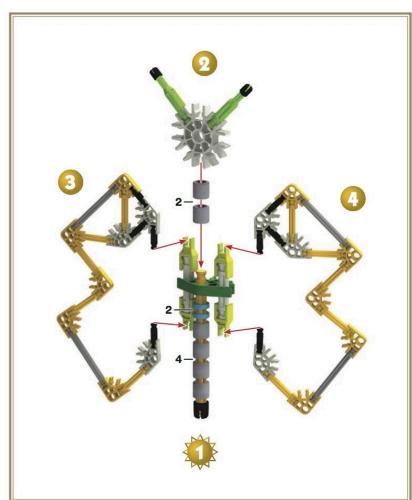


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