

# Salt Dough Landforms

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Background:

The mountainous region of Nepal, where the world's tallest mountain is located, looks very different than the Interior Plains of North America. This is because each area contains different **landforms**, which are the physical features on Earth's surface. There are many different types of landforms. Coastal landforms include beaches, dunes, sea cliffs, and sea stacks. Other landforms include mountains, hills, valleys, canyons, plains, and plateaus. There are also different types of water features, including oceans, lakes, rivers, creeks, and streams. Some areas have only a few landforms, while others have many different landforms. In this activity, you are going to use salt dough to make a model of an area containing various landforms.

## Materials

4 cups flour	objects to cut the dough (plastic utensils, cookie cutters, etc.)
1 cup salt	oven
1.5 cups of hot tap water	food coloring or paint
2 teaspoons vegetable oil	aluminum foil
rolling pins	toothpicks

## Salt dough recipe

1. Mix the flour and salt together.
2. Gradually add water until the dough becomes moldable.
3. Add vegetable oil.
4. If the mixture is crumbly, add more water. If it is too sticky, add more flour.

## Activity:

1. In this activity, you are going to create a model of an area of land that contains many different landforms. Decide if you want to create a model of a fictitious place, the area where you live, or a well-known area, such as the Grand Canyon.
2. Use the rolling pin to roll out a piece of salt dough.
3. Shape the salt dough to replicate a landform.
4. Once the model has been created, your teacher will bake it in the oven at 200 degrees. The time needed to bake the salt dough model will depend on the thickness of the piece you used. If the surface of the salt dough starts to burn but it is not fully cooked, cover it with a piece of tin foil.
5. There are two ways to color the landforms. You can add food coloring to the dough before putting it in the oven, or paint the dough after it has been baked.
6. Label the landforms in your model using pieces of paper attached to toothpicks.