



**WELCOME TO THE  
CRAFT STATION!**

THE UNITED THANK OFFERING PRESENTS:

# GRATITUDE ROCKS!

A Vacation Bible Camp Curriculum Focused on Gratitude, Geology, & Fun

## WELCOME!

Thanks for signing up to run the Craft station for camp! You don't need to be an artist to run this station, just someone who is curious about the world around you and wants to encourage campers to be curious too. If crafts are something you're passionate about, we hope you'll bring your own ideas and creativity to the process as well. Each day you'll walk students through a craft that connects to the theme. Some of these activities can be completed pretty quickly so we recommend having enough materials on hand to make more than one. We'll help you connect that concept to the theme of the day in the teaching section.

Here's a quick look at your week ahead:

### Day One: The Rock Cycle

**Activity:** Create Imprint Fossils using salt dough.

### Day Two: Metamorphic Rocks & Pressure

**Activity:** Create bath bombs or bath salts (for younger campers).

### Day Three: Igneous Rocks & Volcanos

**Activity:** Create friendship bracelets using volcanic beads.

### Day Four: Sedimentary Rocks & Weathering

**Activity:** Create a tic-tac-toe game with rocks - make one to keep and one to share.

### Day Five: Minerals & Gemstones

**Activity:** Create artwork using salt.

We've also given you information on how to expand the activity for different age groups or fill time if a group gets done quickly.

## SETTING UP YOUR CRAFT STATION:

### CREATE THE MOOD

Crafts can get messy, so when you're designing your area we recommend thinking through the kinds of crafts you're doing (water, paint, powders, etc.) and pick a room without carpet but with access to water and tables. Your station is focused on gifts - so maybe create a gift wrap station.

### TOOLS YOU'LL NEED

You will need in your space:

1. Access to water for handwashing and crafts
2. Smocks
3. Tables for doing crafts
4. Covers for the tables to protect from paint
5. Small bins for supplies
6. Decorations

### SENSORY NOTES

Our crafts are fun and exciting, but it is always important to remind kiddos to follow directions, ask for help, and use inside voices. We recommend having activities ready for those fast finishers, and quiet corner for those that might see the craft station as an opportunity to recharge their battery.



## ROCK CRAFTS??

Crafts are often one of the best parts of camp and this week you get to bring the creativity! Each day you'll engage with a rock-themed craft that will help campers continue to connect to the theme. We've also included some craft suggestions at the end of this guide for those that finish faster than the rest of their group.

The activities this week are a bit different than you've probably engaged with in the past because they are intended to be given as gifts. For some campers, it is hard to think about giving up their crafts so we recommend being ready for them to make multiples of each item each day, and sometimes we ask that they do intentionally as a way to build community and practice gratitude.

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## DAY ONE: IMPRINT FOSSILS

Today at camp we're learning about the rock cycle! In other stations, the kiddos are going to learn about the rock cycle but you're going to talk about a rock that isn't just a rock, but a record of the past...a fossil! In this packet you'll find a poster you can print out that shows the six main types of fossils. (On the following page you'll find a handy guide to teaching fossils in case you don't live with a junior paleontologist like I do!) Once you've talked about fossils a bit, you're going to create some. Campers will create an imprint fossil of something they love from nature (noticing a gift from God) and then they'll create a fossil imprint of themselves to give to their adults as a sign of their love and gratitude.



## DAY ONE: THE ROCK CYCLE

## SUPPLIES & DIRECTIONS

You will need (for each camper, 1 cup flour, ½ cup salt):

- 2 parts flour\*
- 1 part salt
- water
- variety of leaves (use fake/silk leaves), bones, twigs, shells, etc.
- bowls for mixing and measuring cups
- parchment paper (for holding the salt dough)
- glue (expansion only)
- paper clips (or small letter stamps for clay) and straws

*\*if you have children with Celiac's Disease, ask their parents first before having them touch flour. You can substitute Model Magic.*

### Directions:

We recommend putting the flour and salt into larger bins so the kids can practice measuring dry ingredients. The basic ratio for salt dough is:

- 2 parts flour
- 1 part salt
- up to 1 part water

I recommend using ½ cup measuring cup so they have enough to make two items easily.

*Sensory note: some campers will love how this feels and others won't. Having spoons available will help, and it is easier to blend if you use the back of the spoon to smoosh the dough instead of stirring it.*

## EXPANSION

For campers needing more of a challenge, encourage them to make a mold and cast fossil. This is when rock fully encapsulates something and preserves it. You'll start the same way as you did before by making salt dough and an imprint. Make sure that they don't press the object through the dough creating a hole. Once it is created, you'll fill the imprint with white glue and set it aside to dry. Tomorrow, you'll remove the glue carefully from the mold. The glue represents the second sediment that fills in the space left by the shell (or similar). Both sides are fossils!

One other expansion...if you have an area where the older kids can takeover, today is a great day for them to make "trace fossils" outside on the ground. Have them create a stencil or a giant stamp of dinosaur feet. They can then fill in the stencil with chalk (or washable chalk paint) or stamp foot prints for the littles to find later!



## SCAFFOLD

For younger campers, you can:

- have the ingredients measured out for them to mix
- or you can swap out the salt dough altogether and use air dry clay.

## TEACHING ABOUT FOSSILS

Today in our craft station, we're going to make fossils! Depending on the age of the folks coming to the craft station you can decide how much of this information to share. On the next page, you'll find a page that can be used either as a poster or a handout. It shows the main types of fossils, many of which, they have probably experienced.

### Let's Learn About Fossils

Today in our craft station, we're going to make some fossils, but before we can do that, I want to find out what you know about fossils. Can anyone tell me what a fossil is?

Fossils are the preserved remains or traces of ancient life, (ex. bones, leaf print), which offer insights into past ecosystems and the history of life on earth. There are seven main types of fossils, six are below with the seventh being molecular fossils, but we're going to not worry about those at camp.

1. The first type of fossil is one that you've probably seen - body fossils. This type of fossil is any kind of animal remains that over time turned into stone and were preserved.
2. Preserved remains are a very special type of fossil that is created when tree sap traps a plant or insect before it hardened. Once hardened, the tree sap is called amber and the item inside is not changed to stone like the body fossil. Has anyone seen this before?
3. Petrified Fossils - This is when minerals found in water, over time, deposit into organic matter and replace it. So as you can see in the photo, a tree turns into a rock but still looks like the tree. (There's an entire national park in Arizona filled with petrified wood and has great photos online if you want to make a slideshow or decorate the room.)
4. Carbon fossils - are delicate, two-dimensional imprints created when organic matter from dead organisms (like plants, insects, or fish) are buried in sediment and under pressure for millions of years. This process leaving behind a thin, dark carbon residue that preserves the organism's outline and, sometimes, soft tissues.
5. Mold and Cast - are common, 3D representations of organisms formed when remains are buried in sediment and leave a hollow impression (mold) that later fills with minerals (cast). Molds are negative imprints, while casts are positive, solid replicas.
6. Trace Fossils - Trace fossils are geological records of past life activities—such as footprints, burrows, feces (coprolites), and feeding traces—rather than the preserved remains of the organism itself. There is no organic material left in the fossil.

Today we are going to make two types of trace fossils, one that mimics how trace fossils look out in nature and one that leaves a mark (or trace) of who we are as a gift to give to someone we love.

### Making Trace Fossils

The first thing we are going to do is make our sediment. All fossils start out on mud, not rock. As the mud hardens and it turns to rock, that is when the fossil is preserved. So when you see images of dinosaur footprints, it's likely that the dinosaur was running through the mud. The mud dried in the sun, saved the footprints and eventually hardened into rock.

Today you're going to make salt dough. Combine one scoop of salt, two of flour, and then slowly add water until it all combines into something like clay. You will not use all of the water, so do not dump it all in at once! You'll break the clay into two. Make two balls, and smash them flat with your hands on the parchment paper. With the first one, you get to pick items from this table to press gently into your clay to form a trace fossil. Use a paper clip (or ask for help) to put your name in the fossil too.

### Make a Trace Fossil that Represents You!

Now that we made a trace fossil, we're going to make one that tells the story of you. On this disk, you're going to leave an imprint of yourself for someone you love. We're going to capture your handprint as a trace fossil. Then we'll use a paper clip to help you add your name and date. This will dry throughout camp and then you can give it as a gift to someone you love at the end of the week. We'll even wrap it for them! This serves as a reminder of the ways you are a gift from God to those around you. We'll add a hole at the top using a straw so you can hang it up.

I will hold onto these until they are dry and later in the week if there is extra time you can paint them.



#### PRO TIP:

Salt dough dries in the oven at 200 degrees if you want to speed the process up a bit. Once the top hardens, you will want to flip it over.



#### PRO TIP:

You're going to need space to let things dry, so set up tables and mark off spaces for each group with tape so things don't get mixed up.

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## FOSSILS, FOSSILS, FOSSILS!

### WHAT ARE FOSSILS?

Fossils are the preserved remains or traces of ancient life, (ex. bones, leaf print), which offer insights into past ecosystems and the history of life on earth. There are seven main types of fossils, six are below with the seventh being molecular fossils.



**BODY FOSSILS**



**PRESERVED REMAINS FOSSILS**



**PETRIFIED FOSSILS**



**CARBON FOSSILS**



**MOLD & CAST FOSSILS**



**TRACE FOSSILS**

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## DAY TWO: BATH BOMBS

Today we are going to create rocks...well, bath bombs...in our craft station. Bath bombs are a little tricky because you have to get the moisture level and pressure just right or it won't come together, too much of either and it will fall apart. We strongly recommend using the scaffold instructions for the younger campers as that is an easy project with fewer opportunities for frustration.

If you have someone in your church that makes soap, feel free to swap in soap. We found it hard to do on our own, so that's why it's not featured here, but it does make great rocks if you've got someone to lead you!

Please note that citric acid can make your hands feel like they are burning, so gloves are a must.



## DAY TWO: METAMORPHIC ROCK

## SUPPLIES

You will need for each camper:

- gloves
- baking soda (4 oz)
- cornstarch (2 oz)
- citric acid (2 oz)
- epsom salt (2 oz)
- water (1-1.5 teaspoons)
- oil (either coconut or olive) (1.25 teaspoons)
- essential oil (2 drops) optional
- food coloring (1-2 drops)
- bags

For the groups to use

- silicone molds (we recommend using rock shaped ones!) you'll want to have enough for two groups so the first set can dry before you try to take them out.
- spray bottles with water
- optional: if you want to have some small, water proof toys/gems these can get added to the bath bombs, to represent how fossils get trapped inside of rocks to build off of what you did yesterday.

For Scaffold (make sugar scrub):

- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 4 tablespoons coconut oil
- 5 drops food coloring
- 10 drops essential oils (optional)
- container for each person

## EXPANSION

For older campers, the bath bombs are tricky enough. With that said, you can make it a bit more challenging by having them attempt to make a spherical bath bomb using the traditional molds. These are tricky because they have to get enough pressure on both sides of the mold with the initial packing and then the pressure to get them to hold together. It sometimes takes a spray bottle with water to dampen the seam before smashing them together to get it to hold.

## SCAFFOLD

For younger campers making the bath bombs can be frustrating because it does take some work. We have a couple of ideas:

1. Let them make the bath bomb mixture in a ziplock bag for them to mix and squeeze into shapes instead of trying to get it into a mold and out of a mold. This allows you to not have to purchase additional supplies.
2. Make a sugar scrub instead. This lets the campers make something that feels sort of like gravel or mud but without the citric acid and the work of molding and unloading the bath bombs.

## TEACHING ABOUT PRESSURE

Today we're learning about metamorphic rocks and pressure, so here in the craft station, we're going to use pressure to make rocks of our own. More specifically, we're going to make bath bombs. Has anyone made a bath bomb before or used one? Bath bombs are pretty tricky because they are made to react with water so getting them to stick together can be challenging. Bath bombs create fizz through the reaction of an acid and base - in this case, citric acid, baking soda, and water.

How does this work scientifically? When sodium bicarbonate or baking soda ( $\text{NaHCO}_3$ ) comes in contact with water, the sodium (Na) molecules break off from the bicarbonate ( $\text{HCO}_3$ ). At the same time, the citric acid is dissolving, with a single hydrogen ion ( $\text{H}^+$ ) separating from the rest of the molecule. When the released hydrogen ion from the citric acid encounters the bicarbonate from the baking soda another reaction happens! This time, carbon dioxide ( $\text{CO}_2$ ) gas is released as one of the end products. The carbon dioxide forms bubbles and rushes to the surface with a fizz.

### Making Bath Bombs

You can see from the ingredients in front of me that many of things we are using today look quite similar, so it is important to pay attention to what you are doing to make sure you've got the right ratio of ingredients. I've got a handy poster on the wall to help keep you on the right track. Also, citric acid can cause a burning sensation on your hands, so we are going to wear gloves while making our craft today. You are going to first mix all of your dry ingredients in your bowl. Then you'll add the oil and food coloring (and essential oils if using). You'll mix these together until they make a wet sand in the bowl. Using your hands, you're going to squish the wet sand together, if it is not holding, then spray a tiny bit of water onto the sand, mix and press again. You do not want it to be very wet - if you do, then the citric acid and baking soda will start to react and your bath bomb will not have enough reactants to fizz later on. Once you've got the ingredients coming together as a rock in your hand, you're going to press them into the mold. Here's where pressure is really important. You need to really press the ingredients into the mold so all of the solids hold together. The water will evaporate and form the solid bath bomb. Too much pressure, and the bomb will crumble. This can be a bit frustrating, but as in real life, when we are feeling pressure and frustration, what can we do to find some calm so we can complete the task? (Take a deep breath, ask for help, etc.)

### Making Sugar Scrub

Today we are going to make a sugar scrub. This will remind you of how sand and other particles start to adhere or stick together to form rocks. Each of you will need a jar, this will become your container to carry it home so please put your name on the lid. You will add one cup of sugar, this represents the sand. (Note: you can make this more interesting by having them add half a cup of a heavier grained sugar and a half cup of more refined sugar.) To this, we're going to use our droppers. Note: for younger campers, you may have to teach them how to use a dropper first - this can be done with droppers and a cup of water.) We'll add 5 drops of coloring and 10 drops of essential oils - you get to pick the smell and color. Next we'll add 4 tablespoons (or  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup) coconut oil (make sure it is warm so it is a liquid). Then we'll mix it all together to make our sandy sugar scrub.

### Notes

The sugar scrubs and bath bombs will be used by the gratitude station to make gifts, so be sure to hold onto them but note what items belong to which camper. When doing this in our practice sessions, kids really enjoyed it and wanted to make more than one, so think through the number of molds you need for each camper to make two bombs or jars to make two sugar scrubs.

# GRATITUDE ROCKS!

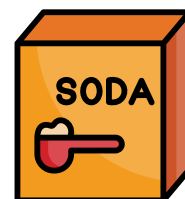
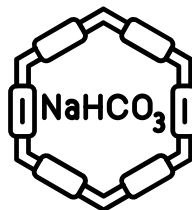
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## MAKING BATH BOMBS



**2 oz  
citric acid**

### Reactants



**4 oz  
baking soda**

What makes a bath bomb fizz? Only the two ingredients above. Two ingredients help stabilize or stop the reaction from taking place and two create the bonds to hold all of the solid materials together. (Epsom salts and coconut oil also make your bath water feel nice!)

### Stabilizer

### “Glue”

Too wet?  
Add more  
of me!



**2 oz  
cornstarch**



**Few Squirts  
Water**

Too dry?  
Add more  
of me!

## Making it Fancy!



**2 oz  
epsom salts**



**1 ¼ Teaspoons  
Coconut Oil**



**Few Drops  
Essential Oils**



**Few Drops  
Food Coloring**

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## DAY THREE: BRACELETS

Today we are learning all about volcanos. While we won't be blowing anything up in the craft station, we will be engaging with artifacts from volcanos by making bracelets using beads created from volcanic rocks.

Campers will hear a lot about volcanos today, but it is only in the craft station where they get to touch and create with volcanic rocks. We recommend having some volcanic rocks on hand to let kiddos touch and investigate what they look like. This can include obsidian and pumice, as those are the two types the kids will likely know.



**DAY THREE:  
IGNEOUS ROCK**

## SUPPLIES

**Each camper is making two bracelets.**

You will need:

- paper plate or tray for keeping beads from rolling away
- volcanic beads (small holes for older campers, large holes for younger campers)
- bead string and bead glue for older campers

Optional: lava rocks and magnifying glasses

### Supplies for Scaffold:

- silicone bracelets for younger campers
- volcanic beads with bigger holes that fit the silicone bracelets.
- We found that with the silicone bracelet we could put 12 beads.

### Supplies for Expansion:

- beads representing the other parts of the rock cycle
  - suggested choices:
    - quartz (mineral)
    - white howlite (imitates marble - metamorphic)
    - lava (igneous)
    - jasper (sedimentary)

We recommend having extra beads on hand for those that want to make their projects unique!

## EXPANSION

To add a challenge to this activity, you can make a bracelet that represents the rock cycle using different beads. We wanted to pick beads that were both pretty and distinct, while also cost effective. You can see the list to the left, or feel free to work with a local rock shop to find rocks that fit your needs.

## SCAFFOLD

Younger campers will take longer with this activity, but it is a great hand-eye coordination test, therefore, we do not recommend an easier project for them but we do like using a silicone bracelet that they can just add the beads to. See the photo on the next page.

## FILL TIME?

Today may be a day that you need to fill time. If so, be sure to check out the last page of this packet for several activities that are easy to add into the mix if you need to fill time. We recommend the origami crafts for today! There's an easy and a hard version. You can easily adapt the mountain to be a volcano.

## TEACHING ABOUT VOLCANIC ROCKS

Welcome to the craft station! Today we are going to engage with volcanic rocks and make some cool crafts. Can you share with me what you've learned about volcanic rocks so far today?

I want to show you two types of volcanic rocks, the first is obsidian. Does anyone know how obsidian forms? (Obsidian forms when lava cools quickly and without a lot of air mixed into it.) The next rock I want to show you is called pumice. You may have seen this in your bathroom as a lot of people use pumice stones to remove callouses. Does anyone know how pumice forms? (It forms when air is mixed into the stone due to the explosive nature of the volcano. Again, the rock cooled quickly but left air pockets behind. It is the only rock that can float in water.)

I want to give you a chance to look at these rocks - I've got magnifying glasses and you can pick them up and compare the weights. I've also got a bowl of water where you can float the pumice. (Give the kids time to experiment and explore.)

Now that you've had time to learn about and touch volcanic rocks, let's do our craft. Today we're going to make friendship bracelets using beads that were created with volcanic rocks. Can you take a look at this bead and tell me is it more like obsidian or like pumice? It is more like pumice, this has some of the same minerals as the obsidian which makes the rock black, but the air pockets are more like the pumice. If you're wondering, the type of rocks that makes these beads are very common in New Mexico where the volcanoes are anywhere from 30 million years old to having exploded as recently as 32,000 years ago.

Today we're going to make two bracelets. One to keep and one to give to a friend you are grateful for today. You can use the lava beads but I've also added some other beads you can choose from to make your bracelet as unique as you are and as special as your friend is.

Once you've strung your beads, please let us know if you need help with the knots. I also have some special glue that will help keep the knot together and strong.

### If doing the expansion:

Take a moment to tell the students what kind of rocks each of the beads are and where they are from before letting them make their own rock cycle bracelets. Encourage creativity - as you can see from our example, our camper made the bracelet her own.

### SCAFFOLD BRACELETS - SILICONE AND BIG BEADS



### EXPANSION BRACELET



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## DAY FOUR: TIC TAC TOE

Today we're learning all about Sedimentary Rocks and weathering. For your craft station today, we're not doing a ton of teaching because this is a project that takes some time. We'll be making tic tac toe games using river rocks, paint pens, and a canvas bag. Each student will need supplies to make two sets, one for themselves and another for a friend that they'll use in the gratitude station for another project.

We strongly recommend making the bags in advance. In the sample photos, we used canvas bags we had around the house. Then we created the grid using a Cricut. If you don't have access to one, you can simply make the lines with a sharpie or fabric pen and a ruler.



## DAY FOUR: SEDIMENTARY ROCK

## SUPPLIES

You will need:

- two bags with tic tac toe grids per camper
- 20 small, smooth rocks per student
- acrylic paint pens

Note: for those of you that have participated in Waves of Gratitude, painting rocks should sound familiar because we also did a similar project there. We've brought it back - updated to be a game - because it was one of the favorite activities of campers. While this is a very basic set up, it allows campers to be as creative and invested in the process as they want to be.

## EXPANSION

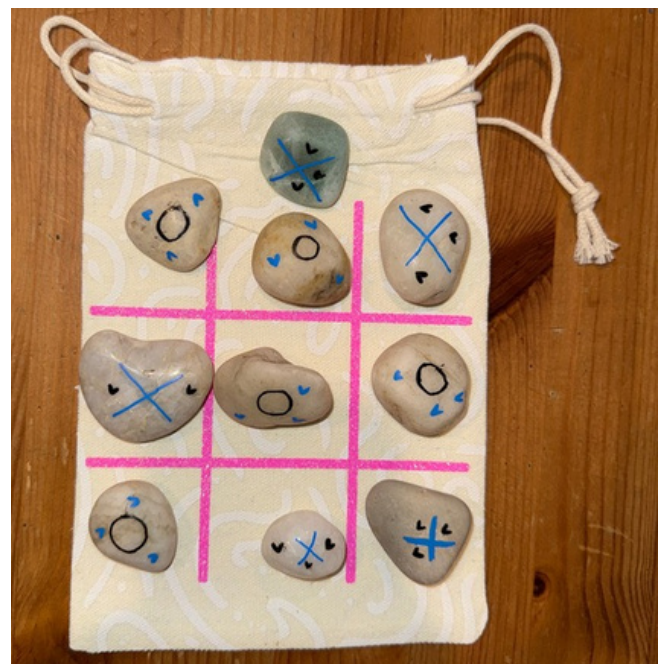
Encourage campers to color and decorate the whole rock. Think about the friend they are making it for and personalize it for them. Make the "x" and "o" pieces different. Get creative!

## SCAFFOLD

For younger campers, they can color their rocks, but they might need stickers to do the "x" and "o" on the rocks.

## TEACHING

Today we are going to use weathered rocks, or in our case, river rocks, to create a fun game. You're going to make two - one for yourself and one for a friend. You'll need 10 rocks per set. You need to make 5 "x" rocks and 5 "o" rocks. Make sure to decorate the whole rock to reflect how unique you are and how special your friend is to you. You'll then use the extra game as a part of the gratitude station later.



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## DAY FIVE: SALT PAINTING

Today we're finishing up and thinking about minerals and gemstones. There are several options for crafts today - some are DIY and some ways you can purchase a kit for each kid and let them complete it. Choose the option that best fits your budget and your crafting ability. We do recommend having more than one option because our goal today is to talk about how each person is special and has a gift to share with the world, so we want to invite campers to make choices about what craft they are most excited to participate in today.

If you have leftover supplies from previous days, you can also put those out as an option to do again.



**DAY FIVE:**  
**MINERALS & GEMS**

## SUPPLIES

You will need one per camper:

- cardstock or small poster boards (looks great on white or black paper)
- paint brushes or droppers/pipettes

One for every two campers:

- white glue
- liquid water colors or water mixed with food coloring

For a small group:

- salt - in big bowls
- scoop for the salt

### Other craft options:

- gem art (make sure to get them in bulk and small enough that they can complete in the time you have available)
- sand art (again, you can find these in bulk where you remove paper to reveal sticky cardboard that the kids can pour sand over to make an image)
- if you are a brave person, you can also do artwork with glitter

## EXPANSION

To expand this project, you can share some images of mandalas, which are a geometric, symmetrical piece of art that represents the universe and wholeness in Hinduism and Buddhism.

In Christianity, we find mandala-like circular symbols in many places - from rose windows, to labyrinths, to Celtic knot work. In Christianity, the circle represents the nature of God (without a beginning or an end), it can also represent unity.

Today, mandalas are often used as a tool for focus and are found in many adult coloring books. Once you've shown these to your older campers, you can use paper plates and the same process described for sand painting to create their own mandala or rose window design.

## SCAFFOLD

One way to build on skills is to write the name of each camper in glue for them to see when they add the salt and color to it. This will also help you identify the artwork later.

## TEACHING ABOUT SALT AND CRAFTING

Today is our last day together at camp and we are learning about minerals and gemstones. As you know, minerals and gemstones add sparkle to rocks. Today we are going to make art that uses a mineral and adds some sparkle.

We're going to make a painting using salt. In geology, the mineral salt in rock form is called halite. Salt is really fun because it has a unique cubic structure which makes it a little sparkly.

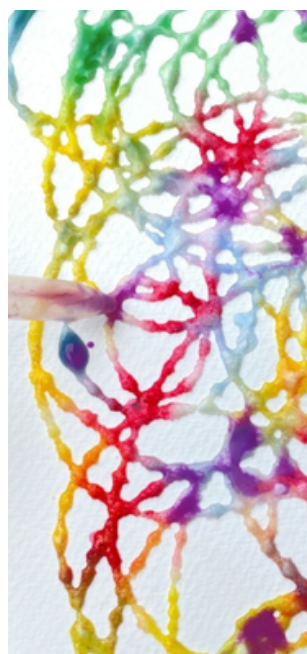
Today you can be as creative as you want, you can make a drawing, write words, or both with the glue on the stiff piece of paper we've given you. Plan out what you want to do - you can use a pencil to sketch it - because once we move onto the next step it is hard to make corrections.

Once you have your drawing planned, you're going to go over the entire drawing with glue. (Scaffold, do this step for the small campers so they don't have to try to get the glue to match their drawing.) You can make the lines of glue thick or thin depending on how much color you want to add.

Next, you're going to come over to this bin and pour salt all over the glue. If you've ever used glitter, it is the same process. Once all the glue is covered in salt, dump the extra back into the bin for others to use.

Back at your table you'll find cups with liquid water colors and pipettes/paint brushes. You will use the pipettes or brushes to gently drop water onto the salt. You will need to be careful - too much water and the glue will break down, not enough and it won't spread through the salt. Start with a drop or two at a time, not the whole dropper. Once you are happy with your painting, please make sure your name is on it and bring it to this table so it can dry.

Because we are celebrating the uniqueness of every person, today you can also make a choice once you finish your salt painting - we have the following options available to make a second craft...



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## EXTRAS!

While we think the crafts alongside the discussion will fill the time you need at your station each day, there are always some kiddos who finish quickly and want to know what is next. On the next few pages, we've added some bonus crafts that you can easily add in using materials that are easy to find and have on hand (or are already being used at another station).



## BONUS CRAFTS!

## BOUNCY BALLS

Here's a fun and easy project that you can add onto any craft - making bouncy balls. This takes about 5 minutes per ball.

You'll need:

In one bowl:

1 Tablespoon 100% pure Borax

½ Cup Warm Water

- dissolve the borax completely in the warm water by stirring
- make sure the water is cool enough that you can put your hand in, but warm enough to dissolve the borax

In another bowl:

½ teaspoon cornstarch

1 tablespoon glue (we used pre-colored glue to make the mixing easier)

Mix the glue into the cornstarch (it won't pick all of it up) until it is almost combined. Pick up the mixture and put it into the borax solution. It will start to solidify. Pull it out, roll it in your hands or on the table, if it still feels sticky, put it back into the solution before rolling it again. It takes a minute or two, but you'll start to get a solid ball that bounces!

## PUDDING/MUD DOUGH

Here's a fun project to make mud campers can play with! This dough is completely edible (although not sure it will bring joy) and makes a fun way to play with mud without having mud inside.

You'll need:

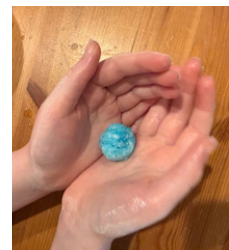
¼ cup instant chocolate pudding mix

1 cup cornstarch (or more as needed to get the right dough consistency)

⅓ cup warm water

Mix all the ingredients together to form a dough that is a cross between play dough and slime - it will be very stretchy and will smell delicious!

Make sure to have bags ready for kiddos who want to take it home.



# GRATITUDE ROCKS!

A Vacation Bible Camp Curriculum Focused on Gratitude, Geology, & Fun

## ORIGAMI!

We love origami as a craft to teach at camp. Our smallest campers find it fascinating to watch paper get folded and turned into something. Our older campers love trying to get folds just right and make really amazing art. We've got two options for adding origami to your camp - the first is a very easy mountain fold that gets added to paper to make art. The second is to make a geometric ball. It's actually very easy to make, it just looks hard.

## MOUNTAINS - EASY

We picked a super easy origami mountain that any age camper can accomplish.

To make the mountains, fold the square paper into a triangle then open it back up. Fold down the tip (where there isn't a fold) flip and fold again. Flip it one more time and give it a last fold. Fold it back at the middle and you've got your mountain.

Add your mountain to a blue piece of paper, use yellow washi tape (or paint) to add a sun, some cotton balls for clouds and you've got a great piece of artwork to send home in a snap!

Feel free to adapt - if you can find paper that is black on one side and red on the other, it makes a great volcano. You can also let kids color paper to make it their own.



## ORIGAMI CHALLENGING: ROCKS

For older campers, we've got a fun origami rock they can make. This one looks tricky, but is really fairly repetitive. Follow the directions on the next page to make at least 12 puzzle pieces. The most important thing is to make sure that all of the angles match. The easiest way is to stack the pieces as you go to make sure they go the same way. Once you have all 12 (you can also make more and make a bigger rock) pieces, start tucking tabs into the center of other pieces, start with the bottom, adding two tabs to complete that square, then work around the sides. If you keep going and fill all the sides, eventually you'll get to the top and have one last piece to slide into place with the remaining two tabs.



THE UNITED THANK OFFERING PRESENTS:

# GRATITUDE ROCKS!

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Step One:  
Fold paper in half to make a triangle. Open it back up.



Step Two:  
Fold two edges of the paper in until the points touch the line you created in step one.



Step Three:  
Fold the same edges in again until they meet the middle line fold.



Step Four:  
Fold the last two points in so it makes a rectangle.



Step Five:  
Fold the sides - one goes up, the other goes down - to create angled edges.



Step Six:  
Tuck the flaps you just created into the paper on both ends - it should look like the second picture when finished.



Step Seven:  
Fold the sides to the back so it makes a square, then crease in the middle between the two flaps - this just creates the shape of your puzzle piece.



That's it! Repeat steps 1-7 11 more times until you have 12 identical puzzle pieces.

Start tucking the pieces into the pockets as shown to the right. This is the bottom. The next shows the view from the inside. Keep tucking until you have a rock.

