

Make Your Own Soil Paint

Soil has been used as pigment in artwork for centuries. Today, we learned about how different rocks and minerals make soil of different colors. The first cave paintings were made from colored soil or charcoal mixed with animal fats. Now, you are going to be able to make your own artwork using paint made from soil.

Materials

- Water
- Vegetable shortening (found in kit)
- Soil
- Paper
- Bowl
- Spoon

Instructions

1. Gather soil from your backyard. Be sure to ask an adult where it is ok to get soil. If you can, try to collect different colors of soil.
2. Remove any debris like grass, rocks, and sticks, as well as anything living.
3. Leave the soil in the sun and allow it to dry out.
4. Once the soil is dry, crush it down with a spoon, your hands or a rock so that it is fine powder.
5. In your bowl, add a spoonful of vegetable shortening, some soil and a few drops of water.
6. Keep mixing until it is the consistency of finger paint. *Note: If it is too runny, add more shortening. If it is too thick, add more water. If you want a darker color, add more soil. When you are adding ingredients, do it a little at a time.*

7. Once your soil paint is completed, try using it to create an art piece of your own choosing! Cave paintings were often of animals and hunting scenes, but you can make whatever picture you would like.

“Soil Art”, Kids Gardening.Org. 2020.

<https://kidsgardening.org/garden-activities-soil-art/#:~:text=Mixing%20glue%20into%20soil%20and,well%20for%20your%20earthy%20paint.>



Examples of cave paintings found in Lascaux Cave in Southern France.