

SALT DOUGH PENDANTS

Number of participants: Any

Duration: Depends on variation of activity

Age Restrictions: none

The art of salt dough making is an ancient one, dating back as far as Egyptian times. Salt and wheat (flour) were two of the most common foodstuffs available to Egyptians. Bread was the staple diet of most Egyptians and natron, a natural salt found in Egypt, was commonly used as a food preservative.

In many past cultures, dough modelling was tied up with religious beliefs and ceremonies when sculptures would be offered as gifts to the gods or presents to people on important occasions .

Space Requirements

- 1 or 2 craft tables
- Space to allow salt dough to dry
- Kitchen with an oven (optional)

Supplies

Dough (makes approximately 2 ½ cups)

- * 1 cup of salt
- * 2 cups of flour
- ¾ cups of water
- Mixing bowl
- Spoons
- Measuring cup
- Food Colouring (optional)

Finishing

- * String
- Oven Trays
- Parchment Paper
- Permanent Marker

* items provided in activity kit

Making & Decorating

- * Straws
- * Toothpicks
- Rolling Pin
- Cookie Cutters (i.e. circles, stars, diamonds etc.)
- Paint Watercolours or tempera

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Activity Instructions

Make the Dough

- 1) Salt dough can either be prepared as a group or ahead of time by staff (air dried or baked) with participants then only decorating the objects.
- 2) To make the dough, combine salt and flour. Gradually add 1/2 cups water, up to an additional 1/4 cup until combined. Knead the dough until smooth, approximately 3-5 minutes.

Form the Dough

- 1) To make pendants, roll out the dough to about 1/2-1/4 cm. Using a floured cookie cutter, cut out shapes. With a straw make a hole for the string (make sure it is not too close to an edge).
- 2) Alternatively, allow participants to make their own figures and sculptures with the dough.
- 3) Texture can be added by using toothpicks, extra dough, leaf imprints, etc.

Drying the Dough

- 1) Label pendants with participants names on parchment paper and place on sheet to air dry or bake. Dough can be baked at 360° F for 10-30 minutes or Air dried over several days (larger pieces take longer to dry).

Finishing Touches

- 1) Paint the salt dough with use watercolours for muted colours or tempera paint for more vivid colours.
- 2) Decorate based on any theme you choose. ie. You can use the attached ancient Greek alphabet to have the children write their names in Greek etc.
- 3) For pendants add a string to make a necklace

Letters of the Greek Alphabet

A α	alpha	= a	N ν	nu	= n
B β	beta	= b	Ξ ξ	xi	= x (ks)
Γ γ	gamma	= g	Ο ο	omicron	= o (short)
Δ δ	delta	= d	Π π	pi	= p
Ε ε	epsilon	= e (short)	Ρ ρ	rho	= r, rh
Ζ ζ	zeta	= z	Σ σ Ϛ	sigma	= s*
Η η	eta	= e (long)	Τ τ	tau	= t
Θ θ	theta	= th	Υ υ	upsilon	= y, u
Ι ι	iota	= i	Φ φ	phi	= ph, f
Κ κ	kappa	= k	Χ χ	chi	= ch
Λ λ	lambda	= l	Ψ ψ	psi	= ps
Μ μ	mu	= m	Ω ω	omega	= o (long)