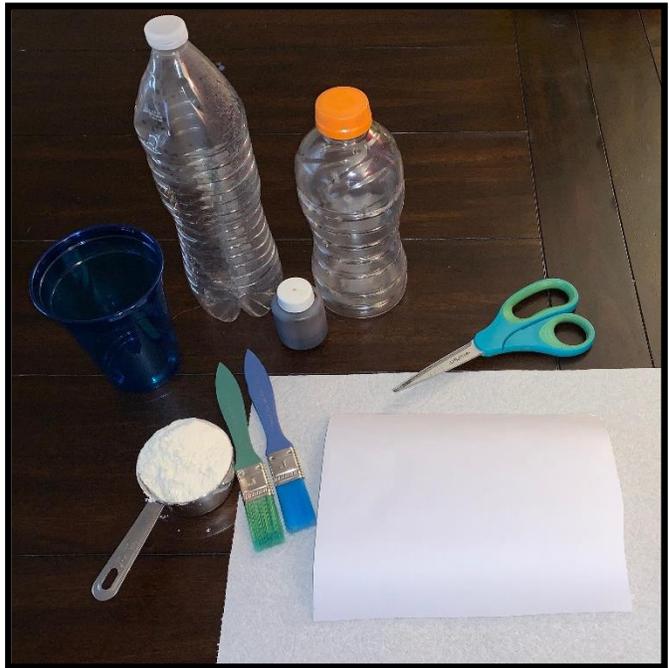


Nevada Test Site Crater Painting

The Nevada Test Site, now known as the Nevada National Security Site, is defined by its cratered surface. In this activity, we will show you how you can create your very own crater painting at home with simple materials!

MATERIALS:

- Paper (construction or cardstock)
- Paper towel or newspaper
- Scissors
- Plastic cup
- Flour
- Acrylic paint (any shade of brown)
- Paint brushes
- Plastic bottle (various sizes)



STEP 1: Cut the construction or cardstock paper in half. Lay your paper on top of the paper towel or newspaper. Doing this will help prevent a mess!

STEP 2: Mix the acrylic paint and flour together in the plastic cup. The texture should be similar to cottage cheese.

STEP 3: Use the brush to smear the paint mixture on your paper until it's completely covered.

STEP 4: Take a plastic bottle and press its cap against the paint to make craters on your paper. Be sure to use bottles with different cap sizes if possible!

BACKGROUND:

The Nevada Test Site, located 65 miles northwest of Las Vegas, was the primary nuclear weapons testing site for the United States from 1951 to 1992. Starting in 1963, testing moved underground and resulted in hundreds of craters. While you used plastic bottle caps to create your craters, nuclear devices and gravity formed the ones found at the site! You see, these devices were placed in vertical tunnels deep underground. When they exploded, the devices left behind a giant hole, or cavity. With nothing to keep the top layers of dirt in place, gravity forced the hole to cave in!

FUN FACT: Due to its moon-like appearance following these tests, the Nevada Test Site hosted Apollo 14, 16, and 17 astronauts for their field training exercises. The astronauts trained at a few Nevada Test Site craters, including Sedan, the largest on the site, and Schooner.