

Salt Dough Map

Salt dough maps are easy, inexpensive, and unbeatable for tactile learners! Making a salt dough map at the beginning of your history studies is a sure-fire method for students to truly learn the “lay of the land.” History is more meaningful when they have a solid grasp of the “where” of it.

Materials for Salt Dough

- ☐ 2 cups flour
- ☐ 1 cup salt
- ☐ Water – enough to make dough sticky, but workable

Materials for Map

- ☐ Reference atlases
- ☐ Salt dough
- ☐ Heavy piece of cardboard
- ☐ Copy of an outline map
- ☐ Food coloring or poster paints (optional)

Directions

1. Glue outline map to cardboard leaving at least one inch around the border for ease in carrying. If you'd like to have a key, leave a blank space for it.
2. Mix dough ingredients.
3. Optional: separate dough and then color it according to physical features i.e., blue for water, green for land, brown for desert, etc.
4. Using a physical reference map in an atlas, place dough on map by color, according to physical features. Build up mountain ranges; make valleys and lakes, etc.
5. Optional – when dry, paint with poster paints.
6. Make a key and attach to the border of the map.

Tips

- ☐ Salt dough maps take much longer to dry on wet or muggy days.
- ☐ After map dries, take a picture of it. Salt dough maps don't “save” well, but pictures do!