

Unit 4 Sandcastle

1. Whole class instruction

Objective: Here are two objectives. The first one is to look at sand and sandcastles and connect with beach materials. Sandcastles are easy things to model and build in class and fun to make. They also illustrate skill and patience. The literacy activity takes this out into the real world. If you don't think your children are old enough for this slant, leave out the literacy.



1.1. Multimedia Sandcastle Picture Gallery

“What does a sandcastle look like?”

- ▶ Open the picture gallery and look at all the pictures. The sand sculptures use the proportions of materials listed opposite. Discuss how materials are important. Cross curricular with Science Materials, book 3D.

Show sandcastle picture gallery. Some pictures are everyday; others like sand sculptures are meant to be aspirational.

2a. Group exploration

Discuss sandcastle design

- ▶ In a sand pit, get children to make sandcastles. But note that the sand they use (as supplied to the pit) is finer than the sand found on a beach (which is good news for making sandcastles). This is an ideal opportunity for you to help children to realise how simple materials can be used to make amazing sculptures (i.e. you don't have to buy everything – go try be creative with cheap things and develop motor skills).
- Sand art is modelling sand into an artistic form. Good sand sculpture sand is somewhat dirty, having silt and clay that helps lock the irregularly –shaped sand grains together. Sand grains will not stick together unless the sand is damp and

Get children to understand simple modelling techniques, such as good compression before turning over a bucket of sand. Keeping sand moist and so on.

Get them to understand the rewards of patience.

reasonably fine. The forces of surface tension(a pull- science forces) work when the water is only present where the grains touch.

For sand sculpture sand tends to be supplied by builder's merchants to special contest areas by the beach.

In sand sculpting competitions, the rules often require that the finished sculpture be sprayed with a stabilising coating that preserves it and allows the work to be enjoyed by spectators for months – provided the sculptures are well away from the sea!



Sandcastles are best made with fine sand or a mixture of sharp and fine building sand and about 8 parts of sand to 1 of water.

2b. Literacy activity

Sandcastle

- This comprehension activity is also important for multicultural and wealth-related studies. It describes sandcastle-building by young poor boys in a developing world country (SE Asian) and shows how skills and hard work can bring the reward to money. It also presents the dilemma of rich and poor being together.

3. Plenary session

- Get children to discuss how they got on with making sandcastles and what the problems were. Also discuss whether children wanted to make something grand (with risk of failure) or simple (with better chance of success).

**Do literacy
comprehension
workbook 5**

4. Further work/homework

- Ask children to find and bring in pictures of sandcastles they may have made on holiday.