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Activity Guide: How to Make Clay

#CMAathome

We're reading *Goodnight, Goodnight, Construction Site* by Sherri Duskey Rinker and learning about all kinds of hardworking trucks. One of the trucks in the book is a machine called a cement mixer. Cement mixers mix together cement, gravel, and water to make concrete, which is what sidewalks are made out of!

Concrete starts out as a wet paste and hardens as it dries. There are a lot of other things that can be made out of concrete: stepping stones, benches, flower vases, and more. Today, we're going to make our own "concrete" by mixing together some ingredients into a wet clay, forming our own amazing creation, and letting it dry and harden.

Materials Needed:

- 1 cup cornstarch
- 2 cups baking soda
- 1 ½ cups cold water

Directions:

- Step 1. Mix the ingredients together in a pan.
- Step 2. Place the pan on the stove over low heat and stir the mixture until it forms a dough.
- Step 3. Cover the clay with a damp cloth and allow it to cool before using.



Step 4. Construct your own sculpture using your homemade clay.

Step 5. Allow your creation to air dry.

What can you construct out of your clay?

Vocabulary Words:

Construction: Construction means to build something. All of the trucks we read about in our book are used to build things, like skyscrapers, houses, and grocery stores. Have you seen any construction sites around Atlanta?

Cement: Cement is an ingredient in concrete. It holds the other ingredients together.

Concrete: Concrete is made out of cement, gravel, and water. It starts out as a wet paste and then hardens as it dries. Concrete is used to make sidewalks and many other things. The next time you take a walk, look around to see if you can find any concrete!

Cement Mixer: A cement mixer is a truck that mixes together cement, gravel, and water to make concrete.

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childrensmuseumatlanta.org/blog/

