

Permanent Sand Castles

for ages 6 & up

Ever wish your sand castles could last forever? Now they can...

materials:

- 1 batch sand dough (see recipe below)
- 1 heavy paper plate (Chinet style – you may even want to double up) or other sturdy base
- Empty yogurt or fruit cups (to help shape towers)
- Decorating tools: knife, toothpicks, pencils
- Blue tempera paint & brush (optional)
- Toothpicks, paper scraps, tape (optional)



process:

Turn your plate upside down, so it makes a little “island.” Make a mound of dough in the center of your plate. Press some dough tightly into the plastic tub, then turn the tub over onto the mound and tap the bottom of the container to release. Smooth the edges together to create the base of your castle. Shape by pinching, rolling and pressing. If the dough gets crumbly, add a tiny amount of water. Use a toothpick, pencil or knife to carve out doors, windows, towers and other details. Tape a triangle of paper to the top of a toothpick and stick it in a tower as a flag. Paint ocean around your island castle on the plate with blue tempera. Allow to air dry for several days.

Make your own Sand Dough!

- 4 cups sand
- 3 cups water
- 2 cups cornstarch
- 2 tablespoons cream of tartar



Mix all ingredients in a saucepan. (Warning! May scratch saucepan, so don't use a really good one.) Cook on med-high, stirring constantly, until all water is absorbed and mixture stiffens. Sculpt when cool. It should become an almost playdough-like consistency as you work with it. Store leftovers in an airtight container. It may seem crumbly when you first get it out, but it should soften as you work with it. If it gets really dry, add a few drops of water.