

# Painting with Mud

## Materials Needed:

- a variety of soils of different colors
- water
- paper
- paint brushes (optional)

## Time:

approximately 30 minutes

## Skills:

Science (soils)

Art

## Procedure:

Before the activity, prepare the soil samples by mixing the soil with enough water to make it the consistency of tempera paint. Fill plastic drinking cups approximately half full of the soil paint. Provide each table or group of students with several different colors of soil paint.

Begin the activity by asking students if all soils are the same? What differences are there among soils (texture, consistency, color, etc)? Ask students if all soils are the same color? What causes differences in the color of soil?

- iron makes the soil more red
- calcite makes the soil more white
- gypsum makes the soil light brown
- quartz makes the soil light grey

(these are generalizations, there are many factors which go into creating a specific soil color).

Allow students to paint using the different colors of soil paint. Encourage the students to be creative and to have fun!

