

Glorious Mud



Welcome to the Story & STEAM Lab!

Welcome back, young scientists!

We are going to learn about a fascinating subject. An icky, sticky, squishy topic. A squooshy, mooshy, squelchy topic. One that you'll love!

Glorious mud!

Mud is so important. Pigs, warthogs, and elephants bathe in mud to keep cool! Pretend you're standing in mud. Stomp and stir up the mud with your feet. That's right. Keep going. Stomp and stir. Stomp and stir. Great job. Now roll around in that glorious pretend mud. Ah, now you're nice and cool.

And, did you know that mud makes you happy? Yes, siree. Playing in mud boosts your mood due to microscopic bacteria. They increase the happy chemical in your brain called serotonin.

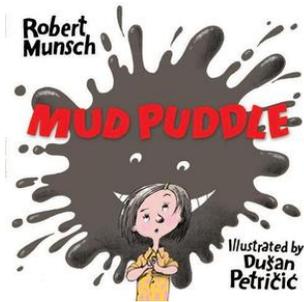
Today, we're going to do some cool stuff like paint with mud and make something that looks like mud. And, if you're feeling creative write a poem together about...you guessed it. Mud!

Let's get started. First, we'll listen to some stories about our new favorite topic. Mud.

Oh and a big hint: Dress for the Mess!

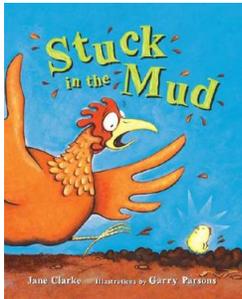


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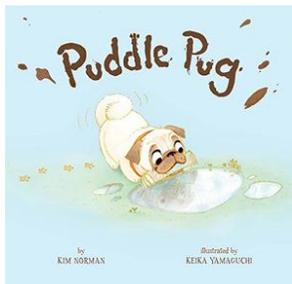
Mud Puddle on Tumble Books

[Sign into our catalogue](#) with your card number and password, scroll down and click on TumbleBooks, type into the search bar: Mud Puddle and view video. It will have a different cover. (Tip: if you'd rather read it then turn off the volume!)



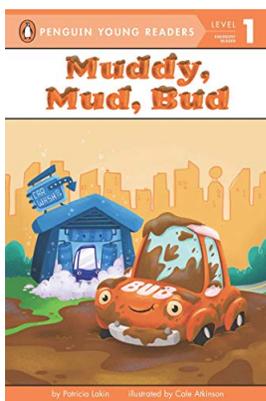
Stuck in the Mud
by Jane Clarke

[Read aloud on YouTube.](#)



Puddle Pug
by Kim Norman

[Read aloud on YouTube](#)



Muddy Mud, Bud
by Patricia Lakin

[Read aloud on YouTube](#)



Glorious Mud

Mud Masterpiece



MATERIALS:

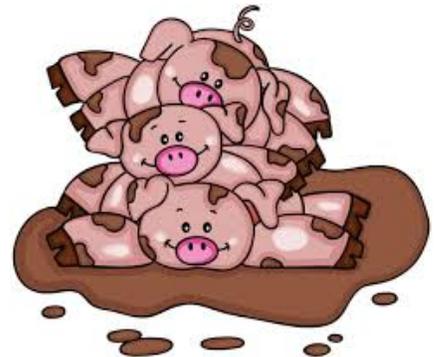
1. Dirt samples (small shovel, bucket or pail)
2. Old paint brush (cotton ball and clothespin or use fingers)
3. Cookie sheet, tape, and paper. (Possibly test to see what surface works best: printer paper, art paper, cardboard from cereal box)
4. Cups or old containers for the mud.

STEPS:

1. Set up your work area on the kitchen table, in the garage, or outside. Spread newspaper. Tape your paper on a cookie sheet. Or lay out your cardboard on the newspaper.
2. Experiment to find the right consistency of dirt and water. Create several different “colors”, darker mud vs lighter mud.
3. Have fun painting!

EXPERIMENT:

1. What made the best consistency? What worked or didn't work?
2. Could anything else be added to the “paint”?
3. Did you learn anything about mud?



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Icky, Sticky, Edible Mud



MATERIALS:

1. 3.5-4 Cups cornstarch
2. One package instant pudding mix
3. $\frac{1}{4}$ Cup cocoa powder
4. Water
5. Large bowls, pretend tea set

STEPS:

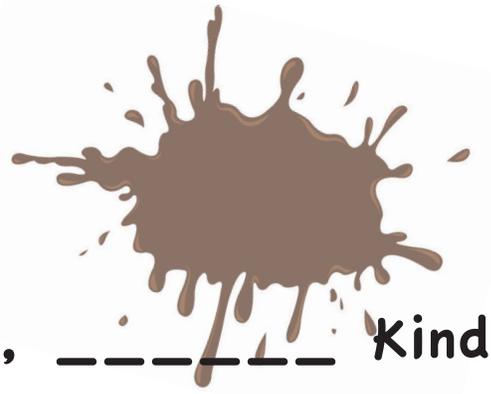
1. In a large bowl or container mix together the cornstarch, pudding mix, and cocoa powder.
2. Add water about $\frac{1}{2}$ Cup at a time. Stir to combine.
3. Knead dough with your hands. Add cornstarch to make less sticky. Keep kneading until it feels right: soft and squishy. If you want it more like play-doh add more cornstarch. (Give the thickener in the pudding time to work its magic!)
4. Play and build. Serve meals with plastic bowls or tea sets. Have fun!

DISCUSS:

1. Did you enjoy the sticky feel of the dough or no?
2. Did any of the directions not work out? Why do you think?
3. What would you do differently next time?
4. How did it taste?

On the next page, write a poem together. Make up words that rhyme or use alliteration or assonance, or that are just fun to say!

I love mud!



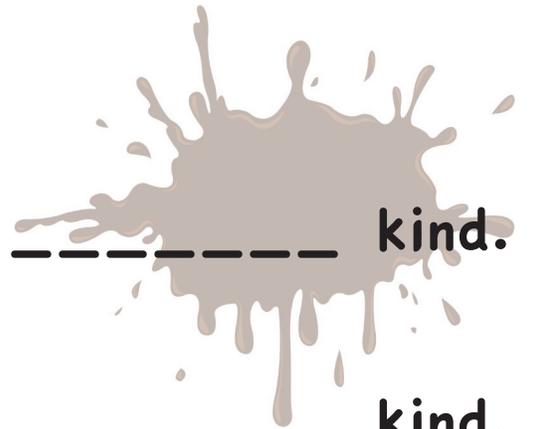
The _____, _____, _____ Kind.

The rub it in your _____ kind.

_____ it, _____ it,

_____ it, and _____ it.

I love mud!



The _____, _____, _____ kind.

The _____, _____, _____ kind.

I Love mud!



Name _____

Experiment _____

Did you have any questions while mud painting or creating mud dough?
Create your own question about mud and experiment!

Question:

Materials:

Steps:

My prediction: Write and/or draw

Results: Write and/or draw

Talk about your conclusions. What worked? What did you learn?

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Thanks so much for joining us for the Story & STEAM Lab library program!

We hope you had fun listening to the stories and then doing the experiments. Sometimes experiments don't work out at all the way we planned or sometimes they work out and our predictions were perfect.

We learn just as much or more from our failures!

We'd love your feedback on this new program. If you'd like, take a picture with your experiment or art work, alone or as a family, and email them to Miss Laura. With your permission, she'd love to post them to our website!

See you next time!

