

ACTIVITY

CONSTRUCT A RELIEF MAP

CONSERVATION of land and natural resources became an important issue after much of the nation's topsoil was destroyed by unwise farming practices. Students in one of the Tugwell Towns learned about land and natural resources by constructing a giant relief map in their school.

You'll Need

- Homemade dough (see recipe below)
- Foam board
- Butcher paper
- Markers
- Computer with internet access
- Flag-shaped labels
- Toothpicks
- Various colors of watercolor paint and a brush

DOUGH RECIPE

Mix together:

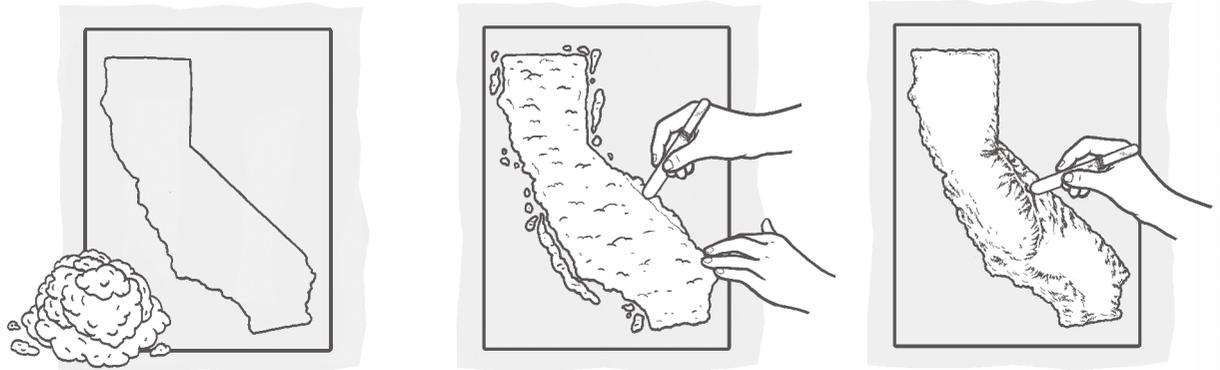
- 4 cups flour
- 2 cups salt
- 2 tablespoons cream of tartar

Add:

- 2 cups water

Mix with your hands.

Draw the outline shape of a geographic location (a state or country, for example) on a piece of foam board lined with butcher paper.



Spread dough over and within the lines of the geographic shape. Make the surface as flat and smooth as possible. A rolling pin helps, but stay within the lines of the shape. If you go outside of the lines, use a table knife to trim the edges. Save some dough to form geographic features.

Look at an online relief map of the geographic region you are replicating. What land forms do you see? Are there lakes, rivers, mountains, or hills?

Form the land features in the dough. Cut rivers into the surface. Scoop out lakes. Identify major cities and other landmarks with toothpicks and flag-shaped labels.

When the dough has dried and hardened (after about 24 hours), use watercolor paint to add appropriate color to the relief map—

blue for water, green for vegetation, etc. Don't forget to color or add designs to the butcher paper "trim" around the outline for added interest. You could include objects that are representative of the state or country. These could be painted, or make them in relief with scraps of the dough when you are forming the original features.

