Craft-Stick Picture Frames Tutorial

Create a colorful picture frame craft from popsicle or craft sticks!

supplies needed

- Elmer's Glue-All™
- Elmer's 3D Washable Paint Pens™
- Craft Stick (Or recycle a popsicle stick if you can!)
- Beads
- Buttons
- Scissors
- Ruler
- Paint

tips:

- Have students do all of the measuring for this activity. Ask students to first measure the picture frame in inches. Then, have students measure the picture frame in centimeters. Discuss the difference between the two measurements. Encourage students to measure other items in the classroom. Ask them to estimate the measurement of an item, and then measure it to find out if they were correct.
- Ask students to write captions to accompany their photographs or pictures. The caption should describe what is happening in the picture in one or two sentences. Encourage students to include a lot of descriptive words in their writing.
- Encourage students to create the craft-stick picture frame as a gift for someone special. Instead of a photograph or picture, have students write a four-line poem to include inside picture frame craft.

instructions

1. Glue four craft popsicle sticks together to form a square.

2. Repeat step one to make a second square.

3. Let the glue dry completely.

4. Paint both squares. Let the paint dry completely.

5. Decorate the squares using Elmer's 3D Washable Paint Pens™. Glue on buttons and beads. Let the paint and the glue dry completely.

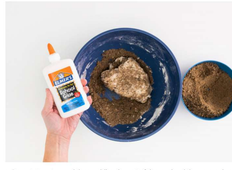
6. Glue the two squares together back to back.

7. Measure your favorite photograph or picture with a ruler. Then, measure the picture frame. Use a pair of scissors to trim the photograph to fit inside of the picture frame.

8. Insert the photograph or picture, stand back, and admire your craft-stick picture frame!

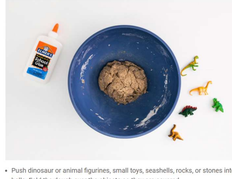
- Slowly add half of the sand into the mixture, kneading it in until it's completely mixed.

- Add 2–3 large squirts of Elmer's White School Glue to the sand-flour-water dough. You don't have to use exact measurements, but your blob of glue should be about the size of a quarter! Knead the glue into the mixture. This will make your fossils harden.



- Repeat steps two and three, adding the rest of the sand and then more glue. Your finished "fossil" dough should be wet and sticky enough to be moldable but not so dry that the dough is falling apart. You can keep adding glue and sand to the mixture until it reaches the perfect consistency.

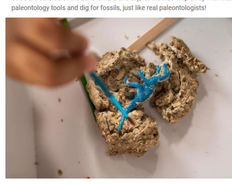
- Once you're ready, form the dough into "fossils" about the size of an orange.



- Push dinosaur or animal figurines, small toys, seashells, rocks, or stones into the balls. Fold the dough over the objects so they are covered.

- Let the fossils sit and dry for 48 hours. (Tip: The fossils harden faster if they're kept uncovered and stored in a dry spot.)

- Once the outside of the balls is hard and dry, let the kids chip away with their paleontology tools and dig for fossils, just like real paleontologists!



Learn More – STEAM Extensions:

- **What are fossils?** Fossils are traces of ancient organisms, like bones, teeth, shells, footprints, and impressions of skin or feathers, that have been preserved, which we can see and study today. The "fossils" you made aren't real fossils, but they are a fun way to get a taste of the way that real paleontologists study the ancient world.

- **What is a paleontologist?** Paleontologists study fossils to learn about the past, but also to help us in the future. Paleontologists often spend time excavating fossils out of rock, cliffs, and creek beds ... just like you did today!

- **Go on a fossil hunt!** Fossils are found all over the world! In fact, no matter where you live, you could probably find traces of fossils out in your environment. Ask a trusted adult to take you to a wooded area, a creek or creek bed, or an area near you where there are lots of rocks. Use your paleontology skills to see if you can find some fossils. Pick up and observe rocks to see if you see patterns that look like shells, animals, or leaves. Study rock ledges or cliffs to see if you can see a fossilized layer in the rocks. Fossils are all around us, and they give us a unique and interesting look at ancient history.

Level Up – Options for Older Kids:

- **The Challenges of Paleontology.** Most fossils aren't just lying on the ground waiting for a paleontologist to find and study it. Instead, paleontologists have to slowly chip away at thousands of years of rock, dirt, mud, and grime to find the fossils they need to study. This is called excavation! When you excavated your dinosaurs from your fossilized rock today, it wasn't easy, was it? You had to use your tools to really chip away at the sand and glue mixture! Paleontologists face the challenge of having to excavate their fossils from all sorts of places, and so we challenge you to do the same. Using the same formula that you used before, see what happens if you replace the sand with kinetic sand, corn starch, large pebbles, or even dirt from your backyard. Do the different substances make it harder or easier to excavate the dinosaurs?

Standards Alignment:

Next Generation Science Standards

- 3-LS4-1: Analyze and interpret data from fossils to provide evidence of the organisms and the environments in which they lived long ago.
- 4-ESS1-1: Identify evidence from patterns in rock formations and fossils in rock layers to support an explanation for changes in a landscape over time.