

# Tot Lot

## Needs List

- ☐ Barricade fencing around entire area with a gate entrance with metal posts
- ☐ Porta potty in the fenced area
- ☐ 5-gallon bucket (to use upside down as a table to hold hand sanitizer outside of porta potty)
- ☐ Hand sanitizer
- ☐ Tables / chairs
- ☐ Broom, mop, dust pan
  
- ☐ Clip boards
- ☐ Rope with clothespins (to hang crafts)
- ☐ Large ziplock baggies or envelopes to hold crafts
- ☐ Carpet squares for circle time / group floor activities
- ☐ Paper towels
- ☐ Baby wipes, several packages – good for lots of uses
- ☐ Box of tissue
- ☐ Sharpies – several
- ☐ Long, thick rope – for walks around the camp (kids hold the rope to stay together) and large carabineer to hang the rope up high when not needed
- ☐ Timer – set to remember to have water break time
- ☐ Prepackages snacks like goldfish
- ☐ Dixie cups for snacks
- ☐ Newspaper and table cloths. For paint activities, it is nice to lay down newspaper and then just throw it away between each group. Plastic table cloths can be purchased pretty cheap.
- ☐ Plastic tubs to stay organized
- ☐ Aluminum pans – comes in handy for lots of things (e.g., presorting supplies for activities)

### Hints:

Have a copy of the schedule and printed instructions for all activities for every volunteer.

Bring a variety of stickers or some type of identifying item (e.g., pipe cleaners) for their water bottle since most can't read their names.

Have one clipboard with a list of all the kids names each day. Cross off who doesn't show up (or make note of who has checked out early). That way all staff knows how many kids you should have at that moment.

Have a spot for waterbottles and backpacks.

# Daily Schedule

**Arrival Activities:** Untimed activities at several tables that takes little supervision so you can check-in kids as they arrive and can be stopped when all the kids arrive and you are ready to get the day started. Allow kids to switch tables when they get bored and a seat is available at the table. Early arrivals make do several activities. Late arrivals may only do one.

- **Playdoh and toys**
- **Duplos**
- **Themed color sheet**
- **Sidewalk chalk**
- **Blocks**
- **Sand/rice/water box and toys** (could be in a baby pool)
- **Lincoln logs**
- **Craft sticks with velcro dots on end** (see instructions below)
- **Puzzles**
- **String and cheerios or beads**
- **Paint brushes and water** (e.g., to “paint” the side of a building)
- **Wet sand in aluminum cookie sheets**
- **Mr. Potato Heads**
- **Yarn and cut up straws or penne pasta**
- **Bristle blocks**
- **K’nex**
- **Tinker Toys**
- **Mini solo cups and craft sticks**
- **Toothpicks and gumdrops**
- **Spaghetti and marshmallows**
- **Bubbles**
- **Pipe cleaners**
- **Pipe cleaners and beads**
- **Foam crafts**

**Circle Time** (extra adults/junior staff should clean up arrival activities and set up round robin during circle time):

- **Review Camp rules:** Don’t leave fenced area, drink water, walking holding onto the rope, be nice, share, use hand sanitizer after going to the bathroom
- **Read the Texas, Texas what do you see every day (see below)**
- **Read book based on theme (check out books from the library)**
- **Sing songs** (e.g., Bear Hunt)
- **Review schedule – get them excited about the day**
- **Divide kids into groups for round robin.** Explain how the tables work. Give them a sticker on their name tag for their group assignment)

**Round Robin 1** Make groups of 4-6 kids

- **Table 1: Theme craft** (kids will rotate tables when all the kids in this group has finished their crafts)
- **Table 2: Craft or experiment** (if you do two crafts, make sure the second one is flexible on time, so you can rotate when table 1 is done)
- **Additional tables:** activities that are not time specific (see arrival time activities)

**Meal**

**Game / Playground / Hike / Scavenger Hunt**

**Round Robin 2** (at picnic tables)

**Snack Time**

**Movie**

# Arrival Activities / Untimed Crafts

# Velcro Craft Sticks

- Color craft sticks
- Velcro dots
- Ziplock bag

Make these ahead of time and let the kids make shapes



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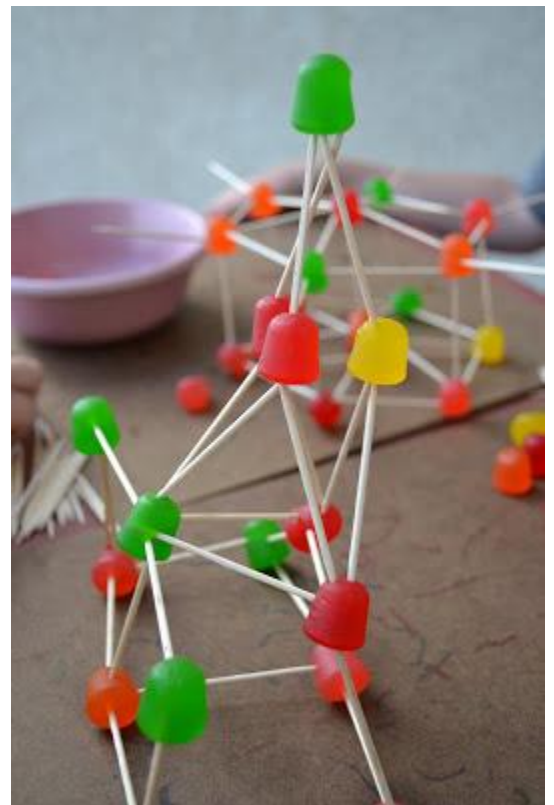
# Wet Sand

- Aluminum pans
- Water bottles
- Water
- Play sand
- Sand toys



# Toothpick and Gumdrops Construction

- Toothpicks (about one box per person at the table)
- Gumdrops (about one box per person at the table)
- Babywipes (gumdrops can get sticky)



# Ice Bricks

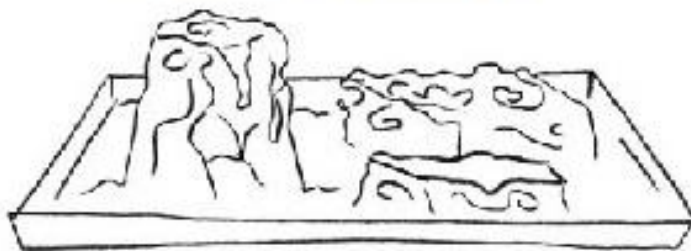
- Ice
- Pans
- Liquid watercolor
- Eyedroppers
- Salt
- Rock salt and spoon, optional

Freeze water and food coloring in loaf pans and cups of different sizes.





# Ice Tunnels



**SMART  
LESSON PLANS**

## MATERIALS

- ✓ Liquid Watercolor™
- ✓ Plastic eyedroppers
- Salt
- Plastic containers
- Tray or water table
- Muffin tin or plastic cups

### Optional:

- Rock Salt
- Spoon

✓ - in Discount School Supply catalog

## OUTCOMES

*Art is good brain food! This art idea helps children develop:*

### Cognitive/Thinking Skills

- Observes
- Predicts outcomes

### Emotional/Feeling Skills

- Sensory pleasure
- Tactile response

### Social/Relating Skills

- Works within group
- Controls impulses

### Physical/Coordinating Skills

- Fine and gross motor skills
- Controls fluid materials

### Literacy & Language Development

- Asks questions
- Listens and follows directions

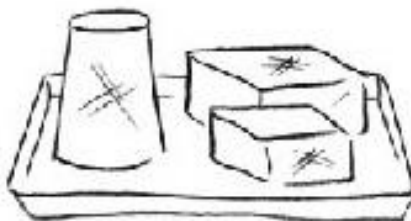
### Step 1: Freeze Ice

Freeze ice in several different sized plastic containers. Freeze overnight.



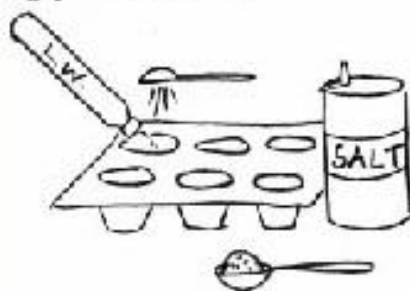
### Step 2: Dump Out Ice

Dump ice into water table or deep tray.



### Step 3: Mix Salt with Colors

Place 6 colors Liquid Watercolor™ in muffin tins or plastic cups. Add heaping spoon of salt to each.



### Step 4: Drop Colors onto Ice

Drop salty colors on ice. As the ice melts, salt eats tunnels into it. Do you know why?



## CLASSROOM TIPS

### Extensions

Teach science when you use salt. One scientific property of salt is that it lowers the freezing point of water. The salt creates tunnels in the ice as it causes the ice to melt. The colors help you see the tunnels better and make it more fun. You can make this with one plastic container block of ice, but it's better to freeze and use several different sized containers together. Varied shapes and heights provide a greater variety of effects. Have children predict the outcome as they drip the salty colors on the ice. Then watch what happens as the hours progress.

### Vocabulary

Change of State: Liquid to Solid to Liquid, Scientific Property, Freezing Point of Water.

Ages  
3-9

1  
Day



# Themed Crafts

# Cowboy Vest

- Grocery bag
- Scissors
- Construction paper decorations (pre cut stars or badges)
- Glue
- Marker or crayons to color



Take a grocery bag and first cut up the front, round out a neck hole and then cut arm holes on the side to put your arms through. Make vertical cuts at the bottom to create fringe. Decorate your vest and consider adding a sheriff or deputy's badge!

# Play-Doh Cactuses

- Green playdoh
- Toothpicks
- Picture of cactuses
- Facts about cactuses
- Actual cactuses to touch
- Sample made ahead of time

Make cactuses out of green play-doh; use toothpicks for the "spines."



# Prickly Cactus

- rice
- green food coloring
- zip top bag
- construction paper or cardboard cut out as cactus shape
- glue
- box with lid and large rubber band or pans
- string and clothes pin
- marker
- paper towel / baby wipes for clean up



Put some rice in a zip top baggie with a few drops of green food coloring and let the kids shake, shake, shake. Do this before camp, or do this as an arrival activity so it can dry in the sun before craft time.

Write the name on the back. Spread some glue on the cactus cut out. Put the cut out in the box (glue side up) and then dump the green rice on top. Put the lid on the box, add a rubber band to be safe, and let them shake it box, or just let them sprinkle the rice on top in a pan.



Shake off the extra rice. Hang up on a line with a clothespin.

## Version 2

Add dyed rice to a cactus made from green construction paper. At the bottom of the paper, sprinkle orange “sand” (dyed salt). Use tissue paper to make fruit for the cactus and black poppy seeds for the seeds of the fruit.



# Prickly Cactus

- construction paper or cardboard cut out as cactus shape
- toothpicks
- green paint
- foam paint brushes
- pink tissue paper cut in small squares
- glue
- paper towels / baby wipes for clean up
- marker
- line and clothespin
- paper bowl



Write the name on the back. Paint the cactus. Glue on toothpicks and tissue paper. Hang up on a line with a clothespin.

Hint: put small amounts of glue and paint on paper plates or in paper bowls to limit the amount of paint they get on the brush.

## Version 2:

Use sandpaper instead of construction paper. Let them fingerprint





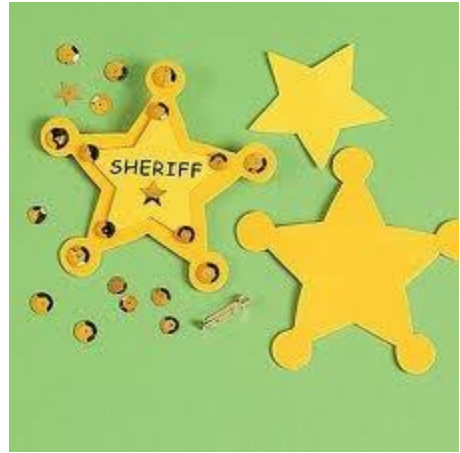
# Cactus



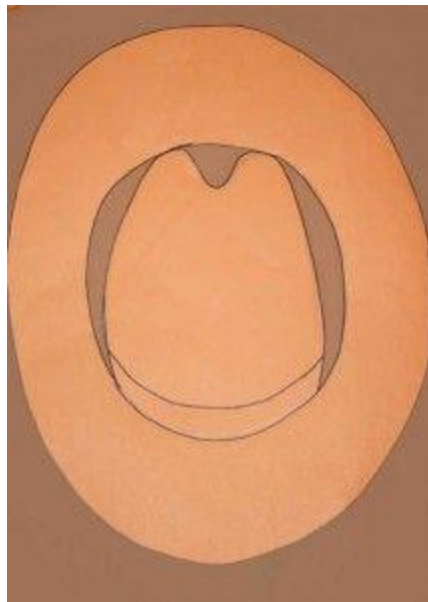
- The cactus generally lives in dry places prone to drought, such as deserts.
- More than one cactus is called cacti or cactuses.
- There are many different types or species of cacti (1,500 to 1,800).
- Cacti come in all shapes and sizes from round and short through to thin and tall. The smallest grow just a few centimeters high and about 1 cm across. The tallest cactus can reach heights close to 66ft and up to 1 meter thick.
- Cactuses have spines (thorns, stickers) instead of plant leaves. These sharp spines and the thick tough skin of the stem help to protect the cactus from animals who would otherwise have easy access to the liquid inside.
- Some cactuses have beautiful flowers.
- It doesn't rain much in the desert. The cactus manages to collect its water using its quite large root system. Small thin roots grow near the surface of the soil and collect as much rainwater as quickly as possible during the few times it rains.
- Cacti can gather and hold a lot of water in their stems. The water is not pure, clear water but is quite a thick viscous liquid. It is drinkable though and has been known to save many people's lives in the desert.
- Cacti can be grown as houseplants as they are pretty easy to grow and maintain.
- Certain kinds of cactus have fruit that can be eaten like dragon. You can eat the fruit and the pad of the prickly pear cacti



# Sheriff Badge



# Cowboy Hat



# Horse

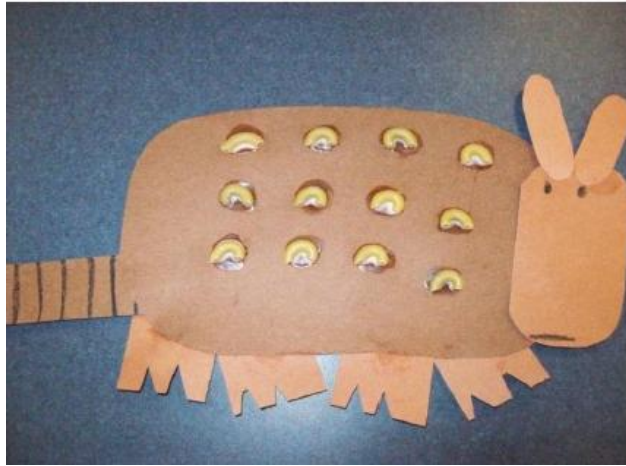
- brown construction paper pre cut into two pieces
- eyes
- glue
- black marker (for nose)
- brown yarn
- toothpicks (to dip into glue)
- paper bowl to hold glue
- paper towels or baby wipes for clean up



# Armadillo

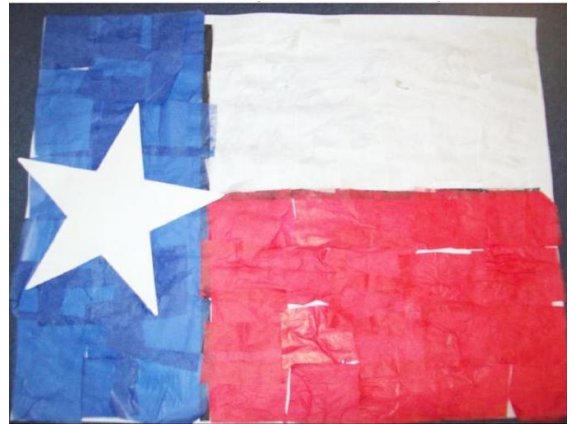
State Small Mammal

Book: "Armadillo Tattletale"



# Texas State Flag

- Paint or glue tissue paper squares
- Precut white stars
- White or black construction paper
- Bowls for glue or paint
- Foam paint brushes
- Paper towels or baby wipes

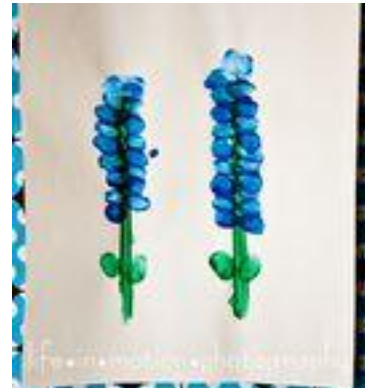


# Bluebonnets

## Fingerprint Bluebonnets

A simple green line and then the bluebonnets and leaves are fingerprints.

Could use popcorn (mixed with blue dye in a plastic baggie) for the flowers.



## Tissue paper Bluebonnets



# Star Neckerchief Slide

- Black shoe lace (or yarn or twine)
- Beads
- Straws, cut in ½ inch pieces
- Tape
- Star or sheriff badge, precut
- Decorations for star
- glue

Put name on back of star. Decorate star with stickers, and jewels.

On the back tape on a couple of 1/2 inch pieces of straw, side by side. Lace a black shoe lace, so it loops at the top.

Add a few beads on each end, and tie a knot to hold them.



# General Crafts

# Vinegar and baking soda

- Aluminum pans
- Baking soda
- Cups
- Vinegar
- Food Coloring
- Eye dropper

Drop vinegar tinted with food coloring onto a pan filled with baking soda. Sheer minutes of colorful fizzy fun!





# Sand Art

- Construction paper
- Glue
- Play sand
- Pans

Have kids drizzle glue on paper. Cover with sand. Lift up the paper and tap the sand off to reveal "sand writing."

Could write their names or help them draw shapes with the glue.



# Campfire

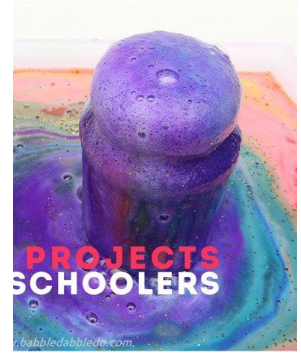
- Brown, orange, red, yellow paint
- Small foam paint brushes
- Baby wipes and paper towels
- Pans
- Construction paper
- Line and clothespins to dry
- Paper bowls



Put name on back of paper. Help kids make brown sticks. Paint the kid's hands yellow, red and orange to make handprint.

# Rainbow Wizard's Brew

- Baking Soda
- Liquid Watercolors or Food coloring
- Glitter
- Dishsoap
- Vinegar
- Glass jar
- Small plastic containers
- Tray



Fill the jar halfway with vinegar, then add a few drops of one color of liquid watercolor/food coloring and some glitter. Squeeze in some dish soap, stir, and place the jar on a tray. Now have your child add in a heaping teaspoon of baking soda, stir again, and watch the foaming begin! The soap makes it foam rather than fizz. To keep the reaction going continue adding baking soda and vinegar when the foam starts to slow. To make it change colors, add a tablespoon of vinegar mixed with one color of liquid watercolor/food coloring every so often. Make sure to dump the colored vinegar into the center of the brew.

**Tip: Stir It!** My kids discovered that the more they stirred the mixture the faster and crazier the reaction! Did you hear the screams of delight in the video?

# Starch Slime!

- \* 1/4 cup of water
- \* 1/4 cup of white craft glue (like Elmer's glue)
- \* 1/4 cup of liquid starch (used for clothes)
- \* Food coloring (optional)
- \* Mixing bowl
- \* Mixing spoon



**WATCH THE VIDEO**

1. Pour all of the the glue into the mixing bowl.
2. Pour all of the water to the mixing bowl with the glue.
3. Stir the glue and water together.
4. Add your food color now - about 6 drops should do it.
5. Now add the liquid starch and stir it in.
6. It should be nice and blobby by now. As you play with your slimy concoction, it will become more stretchy and easier to hold.
7. Explore your slimy creation and store it in a zip bag when you are not using it.

## How Does it Work?

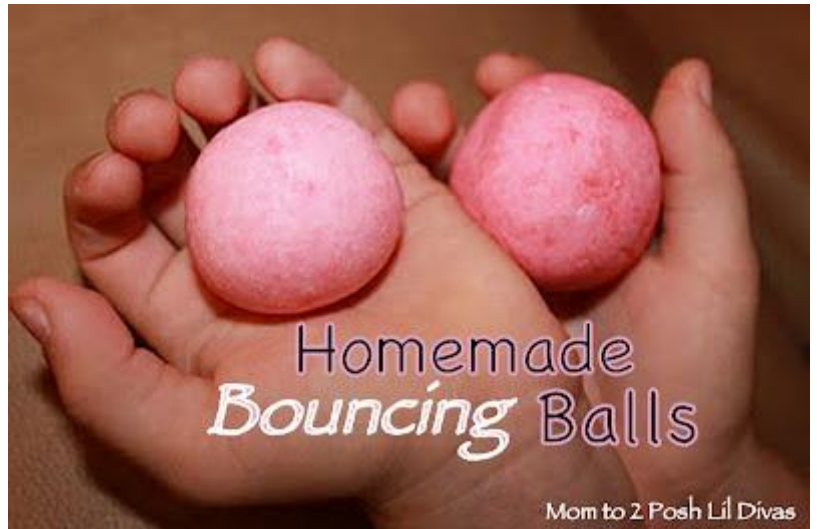
The glue is a liquid polymer. This means that the tiny molecules in the glue are in strands like a chain. When you add the liquid starch, the strands of the polymer glue hold together, giving it its slimy feel. The starch acts as a cross-linker that links all the polymer strands together.

The project above is a **DEMONSTRATION**. To make it a true experiment, you can try to answer these questions:

1. Does changing the amount of water or glue change the feel of the slime?
2. Do different glues make better slime?
3. How does changing the amount of each ingredient change how the slime turns out?
4. What happens to slime if it is stored out of a bag compared to in a bag?

# Homemade Bouncing Balls

- Borax
- corn starch
- Elmer's Glue-All
- warm water
- food color (optional)
- measuring spoons
- 2 bowls



**Mixture #1 - 1st Bowl** - Add 2 tablespoons of warm water plus 1/2 teaspoon of Borax and stir to dissolve the Borax as much as possible. Add food color to this mixture if desired & mix.

**Bowl #2** - Pour in 1 tablespoon Elmer's Glue-All. Add 1/2 teaspoon of the above Borax mixture and 1 tablespoon corn starch. **DO NOT MIX!** Let mixture stand for about 15 seconds then mix the ingredients until it becomes too hard to do so. You will be able to tell when the time is right - it will get clumpy and combined together.

At that point, take out the mixture into your hand and quickly knead it in a circular pattern to form your ball. (Think of when you make a ball with play dough.)

It starts out as a sticky, gooey mess but it quickly starts to solidify so you must mold it quickly.

Once your ball has hardened - go ahead and bounce it!

Note: This will not give you the same bouncy effect as a store bought ball but it bounces a bit and the girls got a kick out of it. We found it worked better off our play mat than the regular floor.

We had quite a few fails before we got our balls shaped right so don't be afraid if you need to do this more than once. It is an experiment after all! The Borax mixture can be used for a few balls so as long as you have glue and cornstarch - keep molding! **My tip is to be quick when forming your ball.**

Be sure to store in a plastic baggie so you can play again tomorrow!

**Have fun bouncing!**

# Swimming Spaghetti

**Make spaghetti do tricks with this fun and fizzy experiment.**

- uncooked spaghetti
- 1 cup of water
- 2 teaspoons of baking soda
- 5 teaspoons of vinegar
- tall clear glass

## **What You Do:**

Put water and baking soda in the glass. Stir until the baking soda is dissolved.

Break spaghetti into 1-inch pieces. Put about 6 pieces in the glass. They will sink to the bottom. Add vinegar to the mixture in the glass. Observe what happens to the pieces of spaghetti. Add more vinegar as the action starts to slow down.

## **What's Going On:**

When baking soda and vinegar are mixed together, a chemical reaction occurs. It produces a gas called carbon dioxide, which forms lots of bubbles on top of the mixture and smaller bubbles at the bottom of the glass. These little bubbles stick to the spaghetti and make it float to the surface, just as you do when you sit on a swimming pool noodle! When the spaghetti reaches the surface, the bubbles pop and the spaghetti sinks to the bottom.





# Lava Lamp

Here's an easy yet amazing way to make your own "lava lamp".

## What You Need:

- cooking oil, such as vegetable oil
- cold water (no ice)
- salt water glass
- food coloring

## What You Do:

Fill the glass about three-quarters full of cold water. Stir in a few drops of food coloring. Can you guess what will happen when you add oil to the water? Will they mix together or separate? Which will be on top?

Add some cooking oil until you have about a half-inch layer of oil on top of the water. Wait until the oil and water have separated into two layers before the next step.

Sprinkle salt on top of the oil. Keep adding salt to see what happens.

## What's Going On:

The oil is lighter than water, so it floats. The salt is heavier than both the oil and the water, so it sinks. As the salt passes through the oil layer, it picks up blobs of oil, which cling to the grains of salt temporarily and sink to the bottom of the glass. Then the oil breaks free from the salt and floats to the top.



# Fun with Paper Clips

See how many paper clips it takes to make a full glass of water overflow.

## What You Need:

- clear plastic cup
- 100 small metal paper clips

## What You Do:

Fill the cup to the top with water.

Guess how many paper clips it will take to make the water overflow. Write down your guess.

Carefully drop one paper clip at a time into the cup. Count how many it takes to make the water overflow. Was your guess close?

Look at the cup from the side. The water is bulging upward like a balloon!

More fun: Fill the sink or a dish with water. Carefully lay a small piece of paper on top of the water. See how many paper clips you can put on top of the paper before it sinks. Try using different sizes of paper.

## What's Going On:

Drops of water stick to each other. That is why the surface of the water bulged when you added the paper clips. Scientists call this surface tension. The surface tension of the water is what held up the floating paper until the weight of the paper clips became too heavy.



# Bubble Hose

- empty plastic bottle with bottom cut off
- piece of terry cloth fabric or old washcloth cut in circles, or use old tube socks
- rubber band
- dish detergent
- water
- bowls or aluminum pan
- paper towels
- marker

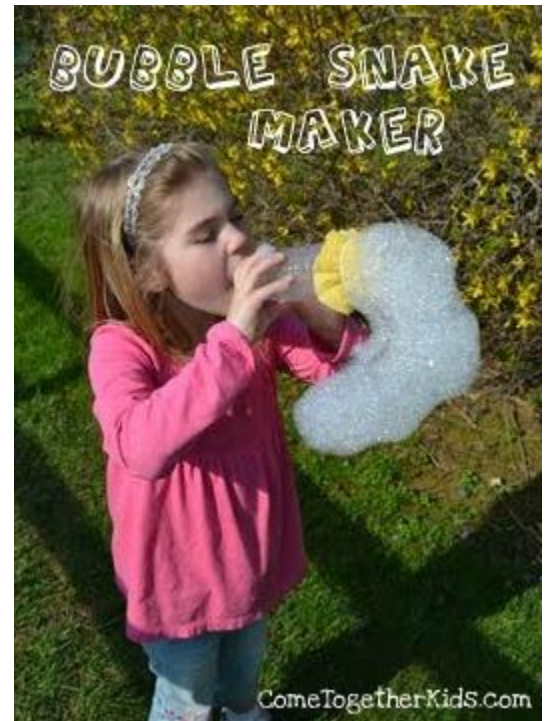
Write name on water bottle.

Put the fabric over the open bottom of bottle and secure with a rubber band.

Put some dish detergent in a bowl and add a little bit of water.

Dipping into the soap mixture, gently blow into the mouth of your bottle. A slow, gentle stream of air will create a long chain of bubbles. Instruct the kids not to inhale, or you might get a mouthful of bubbles ~ yuck!

Have fun making your Bubble Snakes!!



Note: This was done at Orion's camp. Very successful.



# Games

- Duck Duck Goose
- Twister (need game)
- Limbo (need stick)
- Parachute Games (see instructions below)
- Hike – visit areas of camp (BB guns, archery, crafts, games, First Aid, camp director)
- Nature Scavenger Hunt – things in the park
- Bean Bag toss (bean bag, cardboard box – could be theme related)
- Balloon game: Keep balloons in air as long as possible by hitting it up
- Balls
- Play Hot Potato

# Parachute Games

- **Popcorn:** Place a number of beanbags, small balls, or cottonballs onto the parachute. Shake to make them pop up like "popcorn".
- **Ball Roll:** Have the children try to roll the balls into the hole in the middle of the parachute. (Or have children try to keep the balls from going into the hole in the center.)
- **Merry-Go-Round:** Children turn their bodies sideways and hold the chute with one hand. They then walk around in a circle, making a "Merry-Go-Round." For variety, children can hop, skip, jump, etc. You can stop music as a cue to reverse and go the other direction.
- **Poison Snakes:** Place three or four jump ropes onto the chute. Shake the parachute to keep the snakes from "biting" (touching) you.
- **Parachute Tag:** Lift the parachute high into the air. Call out two children's names. They must trade empty spots by running under the chute, before it comes down on them.
- **Mushroom:** Standing, lift the parachute waist height. Count to three - with "one" and "two" being small practice lifts. On three, all lift the chute overhead, and crouch down pulling the parachute edges down as well. This creates what looks like a "mushroom."
- **The Wave:** Children put their hands up, one after another, in order – creating a synchronized "wave" like in the stands at a baseball game.
- **See-Saw Pull:** From a sitting position, have children pull the parachute back and forth in a cooperative see-saw motion.
- **Bouncing Balls:** Have one or two children under the chute trying to hit the balls as they touch the surface, knocking them off the parachute (from underneath.)
- **Flying Saucer:** All take one step forward upon lifting the chute in the air. Upon command, all let go, and watch as it slowly floats.
- **Ball in the Bucket:** Break into two or more "teams." Each team will have a different colored ball (or balls.) They will try to keep their color ball from going into the middle circle, while trying to get the other teams' color of ball(s) into the hole.
- **Turtle:** The parachute becomes a giant turtle shell with everyone underneath it on hands and knees. Everyone must cooperate and work together to get the turtle to move about.
- **Beach Ball Fun:** Use a beach ball, moving it with waves, around on the parachute.
- **Parachute Volleyball:** Split into two sides of the parachute. One side tries to knock the ball off of the other side (half of chute), right past the other "team."
- **The Canopy:** Squat down with parachute flat on the ground. On the count of three, stand up and stretch arms above head, creating a canopy.
- **Parachute Tag:** Lift the parachute high overhead. Call one child's name and have her run (skip, hop, twirl or crawl) to the other side before the parachute comes down and tags her.



Need: parachute, beach ball, colored balls, cotton balls

# Songs

## Going on a Bear Hunt

We're going on a bear hunt. (Repeat) We're going on a bear hunt.

Gonna catch a big one. (Repeat) Gonna catch a big one.

I'm not afraid (Repeat) I'm not afraid.

It's a beautiful day. (Repeat) It's a beautiful day.

### Verse 1:

I see a wheat field. Swishy-wishy grass.

We can't go over it, we can't go under it.

We gotta go through it.

Swish swish, swish swish,

### Verse 2:

I see a river! A cold cold river.

We can't go over it, we can't go under it.

We gotta go through it.

*Wait, take off your socks and shoes, jump in the water. Do you see a bear? Let's go. Splish splash, splish splash.  
Put on your socks and shoes*

### Verse 3:

I see a mud pit! Lcky-gicky mud.

We can't go over it, we can't go under it.

We gotta go through it.

Ploo ploo, ploo ploo

*Do you see a bear. Ploo, ploo. Oops – forgot to take off our shoes.*

### Verse 4:

I see a forest! A big, tall tree.

We can't go over it, we can't go under it.

We gotta climb it.

Climb up.

Look around

You see a bear? No?

Climb down



**Verse 5:**

Oh look, a snow storm! A cold cold snow storm.  
We can't go over it, we can't go under it.  
We gotta go through it.  
Burrrrr, burrrrrrrr,

**Verse 6:**

Oh look, a cave! A tiny little cave.  
We can't go over it, we can't go under it.  
We gotta go through it.  
Tip toe, tip toe  
Tip toe, tip toe  
Oh, what's that?  
Two big fuzzy ears. Wet nose.  
Two big googly eyes  
One big mouth...  
Ahhhhhhhhhhh!  
It's a BEARRRRRR!  
Quick, back through the cave  
Tip toe, tip toe, tip toe, tip toe  
Back through the snow storm  
Burr, burrr, burrr, burrr  
Back through the forest  
Stumble trip, stumble trip, stumble trip  
Back through the icky mud  
Plooo, plooo, plooo, plooo  
Back through the river  
Splish splash, splish splash, splish splash  
Back through the swishy grass.  
Swish swish, swish swish, swish swish, swish swish  
Run to the front door... (tap tap tap tap tap tap)  
Open up the front door, argh!  
Run inside!  
OH WAIT!  
We forgot to shut the door.  
Back to the door!  
Shut the door, pllunk!  
Lock it, clink  
Back inside.  
Run up the stairs,  
Another flight of stairs, another flight of stairs  
(Breathe heavy)  
Another flight of stars  
Jump in the bed  
Pull up the covers.  
I'm not going on a bear hunt again!

# Obstacle Course Ideas



# Tips

Cupcake pans – Put magnets on bottom of the cups so they don't come out easily.





**Texas, Texas, what do you  
see?**

Texas is known as the Lone Star State



**I see a Texas flag looking at  
me. Texas flag, Texas flag,  
what do you see?**

The red, white, and blue of the state flag of Texas represent bravery, purity and loyalty. Six different national flags have flown over Texas representing the countries which have ruled it (France, Spain, Mexico, the Republic of Texas, the Confederate States of America, and the United States of America). Texans proudly wave all six official flags for public displays and expositions.



**I see bluebonnets looking at  
me. Bluebonnets,  
bluebonnets, what do you  
see?**

Bluebonnets are the Texas state flower. They can be seen in fields in March and April. They have a beautiful blue flower.





**I see a mocking bird looking at  
me. Mocking bird, mocking  
bird, what do you see?**

The mocking bird is the state bird. A mockingbird has the prettiest songs and can learn 200 different songs. They mimic the calls of other birds. The male mocking birds sing throughout the day and night.



**I see the Alamo looking at me.  
Alamo, Alamo, what do you  
see?**



**I see a cactus looking at me.  
Cactus, cactus, what do you  
see?**

The prickly pear cactus is the state plant. Found in the deserts of the American southwest, the fruits of most prickly pear cacti are edible. The branches or pads are eaten as a vegetable. Cacti face a variety of threats in their natural environment. They are easily propagated from seeds and cuttings, so removing plants from their natural habitat is unnecessary and harmful to the delicate desert ecosystem.





**I see a pecan tree at me.  
Pecan tree, pecan tree, what  
do you see?**



**The pecan tree is the state tree. Besides producing the delicious pecan nut, pecan wood is used in agricultural implements, baseball bats, hammer handles, furniture, wall paneling, flooring, carvings, and firewood.**



**I see an armadillo looking at  
me. Armadillo, armadillo,  
what do you see?**

**The nine-banded armadillo is the state small mammal. A bony, scaled shell protects the armadillo from predators.**





**I see a longhorn looking at me.  
Longhorn, longhorn, what do  
you see?**

The longhorn is official state large mammal. Longhorns can go incredible distances without water; rustle their own food; fend for themselves; swim rivers; and survive the desert sun and winter snow. Most bulls today have horn spans between 50 - 80 inches.





**I see a monarch butterfly at  
me. Monarch butterfly,  
monarch butterfly, what do  
you see?**



The monarch butterfly is the official state insect. Both the caterpillar and adult monarch butterfly are brilliant in color as a warning to predators (the monarch ingests toxins from the milkweed plant which are poisonous).

Seen soaring and gliding across the USA during the summer, monarchs make an incredible 2,500-mile migration each year to their nesting grounds in Mexico and southern California.



**I see the state capitol in Austin  
looking at me. Austin, Austin,  
what do you see?**

**The dome of the building stands seven feet higher than that of the nation's Capitol in Washington, D.C.**





**I see the Texas toad looking at me. Texas toad, Texas toad, what do you see?**

The Texas toad is the official state amphibian. The Texas toad can be found in a wide variety of habitats: grasslands, open woodlands, mesquite-savanna, and areas with sandy soil.

The Texas toad has a round body covered with small warts. Coloring is gray with brown or yellow-green spots. Adult Texas toads reach just 2 to 3.5 inches in length. They are nocturnal and burrow in the loose soil. Diet consists of insects and other invertebrates.



**I see proud Texans looking at me.**

# Texas-Themed Children's Books

- 123 Texas: A Cool Counting Book (Cool Counting Books)
- Hello, Texas!
- Little Texas
- Don't Ever Cross That Road! An Armadillo Story.
- The Legend of the Bluebonnet
- L Is for Lone Star: A Texas Alphabet
- This Is Texas
- Texas Chili? Oh My! (2013)

## Western Themed Children's Books

- Armadillo Rodeo
- I Want to Be a Cowboy

## Tot Lot Information Sheet

Tot Lot Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Nickname: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Food/Plant/Insect Allergies: \_\_\_\_\_

Does your child need to take any medications during camp? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, what time do we need to take him/her to Health and Safety officer?

\_\_\_\_\_

Does your child have an EpiPen or inhaler? ☐ Yes ☐ No

**Medical Concerns:**

Parent: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Cell: \_\_\_\_\_ Do you text? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Where are you volunteering at camp? \_\_\_\_\_

**Who may pick up the child (other than parent listed):**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Additional Information** (e.g., special equipment like glasses, learning difficulties, ADHD, behavioral issues, emotional disorders, autism, Asperger's Syndrome, tendency to wander, has fears, is shy).