

Geography Landforms Introduction

Materials:

A tray on a shelf/table containing:

- 1 pitcher containing water that may be colored blue
- 1 small sponge (approx. 2" square)
so child won't be upset) on a dish
- Montessori Landform of an island

Note:

Landforms may be made by using a photographer's developing tray (or other container) and non-hardening clay (or dental plastic). See below:



Set-Up:

- Pitcher should be placed on the left side of the tray with the spout pointing towards the center.
- The landform should be in the center of the tray.
- The container holding the sponge should be on the right side of the tray.

Presentation:

1. Invite the child or group of children to go over to where the work is kept and take it to a table.
2. Lift the pitcher of water up and over the landform tray and empty the pitcher slowly (Be sure to be high enough not to touch the spout of the pitcher on the landform).
3. Return the pitcher to its place on the tray.
4. Pause to admire your work.
5. Pick up the sponge and use it to soak up the water in the landform tray and squeeze it back into the pitcher.
6. Show the child how to wipe up any drips.
7. If need be, replace the tray in its proper place.
8. Invite the children to take turns with the landform tray.

Variations and Extensions:

1. Use different landform trays
2. Match the landform up with the 3-Part Cards
3. Float small boats, buoys, water animals, etc.
4. Add labels
5. Have child make their own landform trays

Points of Interest:

1. How landforms look different from each other
2. How land can be formed into different shapes

Control of Error:

1. Drops of water on floor
2. Drops of water left in landform tray

Aims:

Introduction to landforms in a concrete way, eye hand coordination, concentration, control, responsibility, independence, preparation for writing, etc.

Age:

2 ½ and up

Language:

Name of landform, sponge, pitcher, water, etc.