

# SALT DOUGH EARTH ORNAMENTS

Earth Day is here and it's time to celebrate! These salt dough Earth ornaments are easy to make and fun for all ages. With a few ingredients and some imagination, you can create a unique keepsake to remember this special day.

## SUPPLY LIST

- 2 cups flour
- 1 cup table salt
- 1 cup water
- Mixing bowl and spoon
- Blue and green food coloring
- Drinking straw
- String or ribbon

## DIRECTIONS

To make the dough, mix together the flour and salt in a bowl. Slowly add water to combine. It may be easier to knead the dough by hand once it starts to come together. If the dough is still dry and crumbly, add more water. If it becomes too sticky, add a little more flour to the mixture. The finished dough should be about the same consistency as play dough.

Separate the dough into two portions. Add several drops of blue food coloring to one portion and knead to combine. Repeat with the other portion using the green food coloring. If you don't have green food coloring, you can add both blue and yellow food coloring to create your own shade of green!

To make the Earth, take a portion of the blue dough and press it into a circle that is a little larger than your hand. (You can also roll out the dough and cut a circle shape.) Press pieces of the green dough into the blue dough to form the continents and islands. Once complete, your Earth should be thick enough to take an impression, but no thicker than a half-inch.

Place your hand on top of your Earth and press down to add a handprint. Be sure to press hard enough to leave a visible impression. When finished, use the drinking straw to make a hole at the top of your ornament.

To dry your ornament, you can either leave it to air dry for a few days or bake in a 200°F oven for a couple of hours. Drying time will depend on the thickness of your ornament. Once dry, thread the string or ribbon through the hole and tie a knot with the ends. Hang it in a special place and enjoy!

Special note: Don't worry if you don't have food coloring on hand! Dried dough can also be decorated with paint or permanent markers. When creating your Earth ornament, simply form the uncolored dough into a circle and make your handprint. You can paint or draw the water and land after the ornament has dried.