

ROCK SPRINGS SUMMER LIBRARY PROGRAM

make a nature portrait

Make the salt free* dough:

Makes enough for ~ 6 faces

2 cups flour

3 Tablespoons oil

~ 1 cup boiling water



Mix flour and oil in a mixing bowl. Boil 1 cup of water and add to the dough in parts, mixing and adding until you get the dough consistency needed.

Use your hands to knead the dough together (be careful of the hot water!). When the dough is 'doughy' but doesn't stick to your hands, you've achieved the right consistency (you may have to add more flour). You can add food coloring while you're kneading if you'd like.

Divide dough into 6 or so balls (or fewer if you want to make larger faces), and head outside!

*Play dough or other salted dough can be toxic to animals (if eaten), so a salt free dough is best, or remove your portrait after you make it.

Make your nature portrait:

(What's a portrait? A picture or sculpture of someone – human, animal, etc, usually showing their face)

Collect sticks, grass, flowers, leaves, berries, acorns – whatever you want to use to create your portrait. As you're gathering, think about what you'll use each element for. What would make a good nose, or eyes, or mouth? What do you want to use for hair or ears or eyebrows?

When you've gathered all the elements, find a good tree! Flatten the ball with your hands into an oval, circle or other face-like shape. Press it into the bark of the tree (you don't need to press too hard).

Add the items you gathered to create your portrait. Press them into the dough so they stick. Who did you make? A person? An animal? An insect? A robot? An alien?

Take a picture and share it with us, we'd love to see all your tree portraits! Send them to us via Facebook, or email photos to director@rockspringslibrary.com and let us know if it's okay for us to share on social media.