

Materials:

1 cup sand (strained)
_ cup cornstarch
_ cup hot water
Wax paper
Electric skillet

1. On your own, or with your students, make the sand dough mixture. This is done by mixing the ingredients in an electric skillet on low heat. Stir the ingredients together with a wooden spoon until it has a dough-like consistency. Spoon out onto wax paper and allow it to cool. When it has cooled, knead and mold the dough as desired.
2. To create the shape of Florida (not including the Keys), have each student place an outline of the state underneath a piece of wax paper. Then have the students trace the state onto the wax paper using a permanent marker. (You could also provide patterns of the state and let them trace it onto the wax paper).
3. Provide each student with some of the sand dough. Have them push and flatten it out into the shape of Florida. Remember, most of Florida is flat, except for the central highlands, which are located down the center of the state. This area should be a little higher than the outer areas.
4. Carefully place the finished product near a window or in the sun to dry. Move the projects by sliding the wax paper onto something firm like a large book. This will keep them from getting messed-up as they are carried.
5. Once the sand map is completely dry, carefully peel it off the wax paper. Now you can add a star or dot to designate where the capital is, or any other area of interest using a marker.