

Kindergarten Activity: Playdough Imprints

*There are patterns all around us. From man-made structures to nature objects, we can find similar shapes, sizes, and textures.
(NGSS Cross-Cutting Concept: Patterns)*

Pre-Activity Questions

- What are some shapes that you might see in nature?
- What are some textures you might see in nature?

Activity

- Let's go for a nature walk and see what we can find. When we go out in nature we like to adopt the motto of 'leave only footprints and take only memories', but we can still take a closer look at some of the objects we find in nature without taking them home with us.

Explore nature's shapes, sizes, and textures

Materials

- Playdough
- Camera (optional)
- Paper and pencil (optional)

Steps

1. Grab some **playdough** and go for a walk in nature.
2. Look for objects that have interesting shapes, textures, and sizes.
 - a. For example: leaves, acorns, rocks, tree stumps, branches and bark.
 - b. Note: Watch out for spiky plants and poison oak while you're exploring!
3. Use the playdough to make imprints of the objects.
4. Compare the differences and similarities you see.
5. OPTIONAL: Take a **photo** or **draw** a picture of the imprint.
6. When you get home, look around your house for objects that are similar in size and shape.
7. Use the playdough to make imprints of them.
 - a. Note: Avoid pressing playdough into fabric, rugs, or stuffed toys. It can be hard to get off of fuzzy surfaces.
8. Compare these to the imprints you made on your walk.



CONSERVATION
SOCIETY OF
CALIFORNIA
TAKING ACTION FOR WILDLIFE

OAKLAND ZOO

Post-Activity Questions and Activities

- Are there similar shapes, sizes, and textures in some of the objects around your house?
- What are some shapes and textures you found in your house that you would not find in nature?
- What are some shapes and textures you found in nature that you could not find in your house?
- Take a closer look! Check out [Levon Biss's macrophotographs of insects](#) to see some textures you wouldn't be able to see with your naked eye.