

Making Land and Water Forms

Materials:

Photographic trays or other hard plastic trays with sides that are at least 1.5" in height
Foam (preferably hard so it may be carved)
Masking tape
Large bowl
Plaster cloth ("rigid wrap") - plaster gauze
Warm water
Caulking
Blue and green acrylic paint
Brush for acrylic paint
Foam disposable brush (you may need more than one)
Enviro Tex Lite (pour-on high gloss plastic finish)
Plastic container (e.g. yogurt)
Popsicle sticks (for mixing)
Sharp knife
Scissors

Procedure:

Part 1: Cutting the Foam

Place a photographic tray on the table.
Cut foam to fit in the bottom of the tray.
The foam should fit tightly.
Take foam out of the tray.
Cut the foam in to the desired land/water form (e.g. lake)
Remove the cut foam - but keep the piece for the other tray (e.g. island).
Flip the foam over.
Place a few pieces of rolled masking tape on the form.
Flip the foam back over and place it down in to the tray.
Continue in the same manner for all the land and water forms.

Part 2: Plastering

Fill your large bowl with warm water.
Place a tray (with the foam in it) on the table.
Take out the plaster strips.
Cut the strips to the desired length.
Place one strip with the plaster side facing up in the warm water.
Remove the strip once it has been saturated with water.
Place the strips in the desired position on the foam or bottom of the tray.
Continue until you have covered all the foam and the exposed bottom of the tray with at least 3 or 4 layers of strips.
Make sure the plaster is lined up right to the edge of the tray.
Continue in the same manner for the rest of the trays.
Allow the plaster to dry for several hours (follow instruction on the plaster package).

Part 3: Caulking

Place a dry plastered tray on the table.

Squeeze caulking in the crack between the plaster and edge of the tray.

Smooth the caulking with your finger - ensure a good seal.

Continue in the same manner with the rest of the trays.

Allow the caulking to dry for several hours.

Part 4: Painting

Place a caulked (and dry) tray on the table.

Using the acrylic paint, paint the land and water.

Paint each tray, and allow to dry (follow instructions on the paint can)

Part 5: The Plastic

Place a painted tray on the table.

Be sure that everything (plaster, caulking, paint) is completely dry or the plaster may bubble.

Using the plastic container, popsicle stick and the Enviro Tex Lite bottles, prepare enough liquid plastic for one tray. **Always read the instruction on the box for best results.**

Take the disposable brush and paint the plastic on to the plaster/painted part of the land and water form. Be generous.

Make sure you paint up to the side of the tray, sealing the edge of the plaster and the sides of the tray.

When all is covered, blow on the liquid plastic to remove the bubbles (If all else fails, use a blow dryer to get rid of the bubbles).

Mix more plastic for the next tray and continue in the same manner.

After the plastic has hardened and dried, consider a second/third coat.