**Mock Rock Recipe**

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| Ingredients* 250 ml or 1 cup white flour
* 125 ml or ½ cup salt
* 10 ml or 2 tsp. alum
* ½ cup water
* 5 drops red food coloring
* 5 drops blue food coloring
* 5 drops yellow food coloring
* 250 ml or 1 cup coarse sand
* 125 ml or ½ cup gravel
* 30 ml or 1/8 cup oyster-shell pieces
 | Equipment* bowl or large zip bag
* stirring spoon
* measuring utensils
* tray, cookie sheet, plates
* paper towels
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| Make the Mock Rocks1. Mix flour, salt, and alum in the bowl/bag.
2. Add food coloring to water.
3. Add colored water to flour mixture. Knead mixture until it is uniform in color and texture and no longer sticks to the side of the bowl.
4. Add sand and gravel to the mixture and knead until well-mixed
5. Divide mixture into 18 balls, varying in size. Hold a rock ball in the palm of your hand, and with your thumb, make a small hole in the center. Place 10-12 pieces of oyster shell in the hole and mold the dough around them.
6. Work the ball in your hands, smoothing its surface. Flatten the rock so that it is 1-2 cm thick. (thinner rocks dry quicker) Create a set of rocks that vary in size and shape by making each rock a little different.
7. Put the rocks on a plate or try. Make sure the rocks do not touch each other. Place them in a warm area to dry. Turn them each day so they will dry thoroughly. It takes them about a week to dry, depending on humidity.
8. Use a paper towel to wipe the sand and gravel pieces from the utensils so that the solid materials do not go down the drain.

Test the rocks: Break on after 6 days to make sure they are thoroughly dry and hard, but not so hard that they can’t be broken in half by hand and taken apart with the nail (geologist’s pick). |