



Things That Are Round

Part I - Find Round Things in Nature

- Children go outside and collect rocks. Sort through them and find a round one.
- Paint the rock and decorate it.
- Tell a story about the rock, giving it a name.
- Describe how it is round.
- What other things in our room are round?
- Why?

Part II - Make a Borax Bouncy Ball

- Use a permanent marker to label one plastic cup "ball" and "borax" on another plastic cup.
- Combine 1/2 teaspoon borax with 2 tablespoons warm water in the borax cup and stir well to dissolve the borax.
- Add one drop of food coloring at a time, stirring after each addition, until the mixture's shade suits you.
- Pour 1 tablespoon glue into the "ball" cup.
- Add 1/2 teaspoon of the borax mixture to the glue but do not stir the mixture.
- Add 1 tablespoon of the cornstarch and do not stir. The ingredients will now begin to combine with each other without mixing them.
- Wait 10 to 15 seconds and then stir the mixture constantly until it thickens to the point that you can no longer stir it.
- Scoop the stiffened mixture out of the cup with a spoon and begin kneading it with your hands.
- Shape the mixture into a ball as you are kneading it. The mixture will be messy and sticky initially, but it will begin to solidify with handling and exposure to air. Once it's no longer sticky, it's ready to bounce.
- Wash your hands, work area and all the utensils with warm soapy water. Store the bouncy ball in a sealed plastic bag at room temperature when you are not using it.

Part III - Rising Balls

- Place golf or Ping-Pong balls into a wide mouth jar with a lid.
- Let the children pour rice into the jar, but leave about 2 inches at the top.
- Place the lid on the jar, and give each child a turn at shaking the jar back and forth from side to side.
- Watch as the balls rise to the top of the jar.

Explanation: The rice is heavier than the balls. So, as you shake the jar, the rice settles to the bottom and the balls are forced to rise to the top.