

## Mud Pies



All you need is a tinfoil pan,  
If you don't have that use a frying pan.

Grab some mud, but not too much,  
It's squishy and squashy and fun to touch.

Fill your pan all the way to the top,  
Decorate it with a colorful gum drop.

Place it in the sun and give it time to bake,  
Be careful when it dries, it just might break.

---

## **Mud Pies Activity**

**(Grade Level: K – First Grade)**

**Materials:** Overhead Projector, or SMART Board, copies of poem, pencils, crayons.

**\*Note\*** If you choose to use the SMART Board you may go to ***Mightybook.com*** and pull up the lesson online.

**Goal of Activity:** The rhyming poem can be used as an additional resource to reinforce rhyming words and sharpen listening skills. Students will also make a mold using their hands with names. **\*\*Teacher Note\*\*** There is also an optional ***Mud Pie Science Activity*** included with this lesson. Students will make their own mud pies using environmental items from nature, keep a mud pie record of the changes to the experiment daily and give a presentation to the class when their mud pie creation has dried.

1. **Picture Walk:** Turn on your Overhead Projector or SMART Board and begin with a picture walk, by asking students what they see in the picture.
2. **Discuss Title:** Discuss the title of the poem, “Mud Pies” and ask students what it may mean. **\*Teacher Note\*** *“Mud Pies, was written about kids who enjoy playing in the dirt and using their imaginations to create mud pies, and other creative things with dirt from their environment.”*
  - Talk about something you created with dirt during your childhood or how you may enjoy gardening (digging in the dirt) and planting.
  - Ask students if they have ever made a mud pie or filled a pail with dirt or sand, etc. This should get their brain juice valves moving and thinking.
  - **Discuss The Meaning of Poetry:** With this discussion you might want to check out a book of poetry for kids at the library. There are many great poetry books that you may be familiar with. Two recommendations are, *The Random House Book of Poetry for Children*, and the works of Jack Prelutsky, who writes poetry books for kids that are fun and age appropriate.
  - Ask students if they know what a poem is. You might explain that poems are fun when you juggle your words, patterns and rhythms together to make it exciting. They come in many different forms and can be about anything you want. Below are a few examples of poetry types to discuss with your students.

- **Rhyming Poems:** use the repetition of the same or similar sounds for two or more words at the end of the lines.
  - **Free Verse Poetry:** written in either rhyming or unrhymed lines that have no real rhythm or pattern.
  - If you decided to check out a book this is a great time to read one very short poem (for this age group) to your students.
  - You don't want to inundate them with information, but you do want to open their minds.
3. **Rhyming Poetry Warm-Up:** Tell students that "*Mud Pies*" is a rhyming poem. Ask students if they understand what rhyme means. You may need to give a brief example if there aren't many hands raised.
    - First, choose a simple word to write on the board. Then ask students for a word that rhymes with the one you wrote. For example, you may write, "mat." This should get the rhyming brain juice valves moving.
    - Pick two more words from the poem or some you make up and repeat the step above.
    - Make sure to call on students whose hands are not raised so you can see who may need a little extra support with the lesson.
  4. **Pass Out Copies of Poem:** Ask a student to pass out the poem. As they are distributing the poem remind them they will need to listen very closely for rhyming words.
  5. **Read Poem:** Read "*Mud Pies*" and ask students to follow along with you. At the end of each line pause for a few seconds.
    - **Time for Students To Read Aloud:** When you have finished reading the poem, have students read along with you the second time.
  6. **Poem Discussion:** Now that they have read the poem ask students what the poem is about.

**Here are a few sample questions you may use:**

    - What do you think the person is trying to make?
    - What is the pan being used for?
  7. **Circle Rhyming Words:** Using your Overhead Projector or SMART Board.

**\*\* Teacher Note\*\* Kindergarten:** *students may need teacher to read the poem. If this is the case ask students to wake up Ms. Pointer Finger to help them track the words as you read. Pause at the end of second line and ask students if they hear which words rhyme.*

**\*\* Teacher Note \*\*** **1<sup>st</sup> Grade:** challenge your students to read one line at a time. Ask a student to read the first line. Then ask another student to read the second line. Have those two students work together to decide which words rhyme. When they agree, have the class circle the words as well.

- Ask another student the meaning of the rhyming words. For example, “What do ‘bake’ and ‘break’ mean?”
- Continue circling the rhyming words along with your students and asking them the meaning of the words.

**8. Writing and Drawing Activity:** Pass out writing activity to students. Explain that they will write the rhyming words from the poem on the lines provided. Students will need to pay attention because there is one word use twice in the poem.

- Then ask them to draw a picture of two friends making mud pies.

**\*\* “Mud Pies” Activity Completed: Ask students to give themselves a pat on the back and kiss their brains! Great work today! \*\***



Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Mud Pies

### Writing and Drawing Activity

Write the rhyming word pairs from the poem.

1. The word \_\_\_\_\_ and  
\_\_\_\_\_ are the same.

2. The words \_\_\_\_\_ and  
\_\_\_\_\_ rhyme.

3. The words \_\_\_\_\_ and  
\_\_\_\_\_ rhyme.

4. The words \_\_\_\_\_ and  
\_\_\_\_\_ rhyme.

**Draw a picture of two friends making a mud pie.**

## Mud Pies Science Activity

Get creative with students and make mud pies! Below are ideas to get the brain juice valves moving.

### Mud Pie Instructions

#### Goal of Activity:

Group students into teams to see who can make the most creative mud pie! Make predictions; discover items in their environment and how to use them. Students will learn how to record ingredients and changes to their mud pie daily.

#### Materials

- ✓ **Tinfoil pie pans.** Try to keep your groups small if possible. For example, if you have a group of 20 students, divide them into 5 groups, each with one tinfoil pie pan.
- ✓ **Item(s)** from your home or your classroom that you may be throwing away. Bring them in and see if one of the groups could use them for their mud pie. Old birthday candles you don't plan to use, dry beans, food coloring, fabric strips, etc. Use your imagination.
- ✓ **Soil** (small bag).
- ✓ **Plastic Containers** (depending on size of groups).
- ✓ **Large spoons or sticks** (for stirring).
- ✓ **Homemade Notebook** (to record notes about the experiment). This can be a few pieces of recycled paper stapled together. Allow each group to create its notebook. There should be one notebook per group.

- ✓ **Plastic or paper bags** for collecting environmental items.
- ✓ **Smock, old T-shirts or aprons** to protect clothing

**Mud Pie Teams:** Allow groups to come up with their own mud pie team names. The names can be of their choosing. For example, “No Eat Mud Pie Team” or “Yucky Mud Pie Team.”

- Talk to students as you mix up the water and soil and allow them to watch you do it. Make sure the consistency is thick enough to dry but soft enough to stir. This will be the soil station where they come to get their mud.
- Ask students some of the uses of soil. “What do we use it for? Why is It so important for our environment?”
- Explain that they will use their homemade notebooks that they created to record changes to their mud pies. They should write things like, how long it took to dry, ingredients used, etc.
- Think about making one of your own. Students will get a kick out of your creation.

**Collect Natural Materials:** Once students have named their mud pie teams, tell students that they will go on a nature walk to allow them to collect natural items from their environment to use for their mud pies (such as leaves, sticks, grass, small rocks, etc.).

**Soil Station:** Use a couple of containers already completed with soil and water. Each team will come to the soil station using the containers to pour the mud into their tin foil pans.

**Scrap Station:** fill this container with items you brought from home that students can use. For example, a couple of containers of dry beans and birthday candles, etc.

**Yummy Mud Pie Bake Off:** Mud pie teams can now come to the station and fill their pans with mud. Make sure to keep an eye out as they do this.

- They may use their items collected from the nature walk.
- They may include items from the scrap station.
- Remind students to be creative. They can use a thumb print, hand print, etc.

**Time To Bake:** When students have completed the project, have them bring it to a clean space (perhaps in a covered spot outside your classroom). If you have a sunny spot where the pies can sit to dry, that would be great. Or if you have a safe spot inside for them to harden, that would work as well.

**Mud Pie Records:** Tell students that using their homemade notebooks, they will need team members to record the ingredients, the length of time to make the mud pie, whether it easy or difficult to mix, etc. Explain that all these records are important for this science project.

## Mud Pies

- Set aside 5 minutes in your classroom day for groups to choose one person to record changes to their mud pies the next day, using the group's notebook. Do this for a couple of days.

**Mud Pie Presentation:** Well, the mud pies have dried, now what? It's time to get those teams together for a presentation. Each group using its homemade mud pie notebook will choose one person to report on how they made it, how long it took, what they put in it, etc.

- Show off your students' mud pies and invite other classrooms to drop by and view them, and to hear the presentation of each group.
- Or put the mud pies on display somewhere in the school for all to see.

**\*\*Enjoy and have fun making mud pies!\*\***