

PAPER MACHE TERMITE MOUND

Although you probably don't have a sloth bear at home, you can adapt this activity to create something for a pet to play with or even just something for yourself to enjoy. Be creative and have fun!

SUPPLIES



Cardboard Boxes, cardboard tubes, newspaper, scissors or box cutter, hot water, flour, salt, and tempura paint.

PROCEDURE



- 1) Remove any tape, stickers, staples, etc. from cardboard.
- 2) Arrange cardboard boxes into desired shape of a termite mound.
- 3) Cut holes into your cardboard boxes just large enough to place cardboard tubes.
- 4) Seal the cardboard tubes by stuffing one end of each tube with newspaper.

- 5) Insert sealed end of cardboard tubes into premade holes.
- 6) Create Paper Mache mix by stirring together a pinch of salt, 2 cups of flour and, 3 cups of hot water.
- 7) Dip a strip of newspaper into the Paper Mache mix, remove excess, and then lay across boxes and tubes. Repeat this step till all cardboard is covered.
- 8) Allow Paper Mache to dry overnight.
- 9) Once Paper Mache is dry, use tempura paint to decorate the outside of your termite mound.
- 10) After the paint has dried fill tubes with tasty insects.
- 11) Give the termite mound filled with tasty insects to your favorite sloth bear and watch them enjoy the tasty treat.

SCIENCE



A sloth bears main source of food is termites and other insects. Sloth bears use their sharp, long claws to tear open termite and ant mounds. Using their long snout, they will stick their nose into a hole and blow away the dirt around the insects. Then the sloth bear seals its nostrils close and sucks the insects out like a vacuum, through a large gap in its upper teeth.