



45 mins
active
time

FROZEN FLOWERS

On a hot day, playing with ice is a great way to cool down, as well as being an interesting sensory experience. Why not spruce up your ice play by freezing flowers and plants? This two-part activity starts with an adventure to find goodies to put in the freezer and then, the next day, playing with the mesmerizing ice.



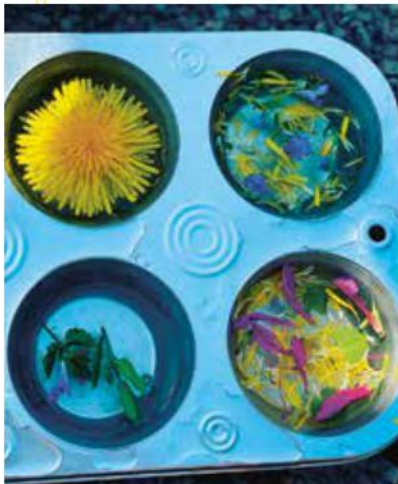
SUPPLIES

- Ice cube trays or muffin pans
- Small, colorful flowers of different shapes
- Water (ideally distilled)
- Small, colorful flowers
- Freezer



INSTRUCTIONS

1. Fill each section of your ice cube or muffin tray one-quarter full with water and place some flowers or petals in each one.
2. Place your tray in the freezer for about 20 minutes.
3. Take the tray out of the freezer and, if you wish, add in a few more flowers.
4. Fill up the rest of each compartment with water. Freezing the shapes in two stages will ensure that your flowers won't float to the top.
5. Put the tray back in the freezer overnight.
6. Once they are frozen, carefully remove your ice blocks from their trays.
7. Enjoy exploring your frozen flowers as they begin to melt!



These are a great addition to a **mud kitchen** (see page 34).



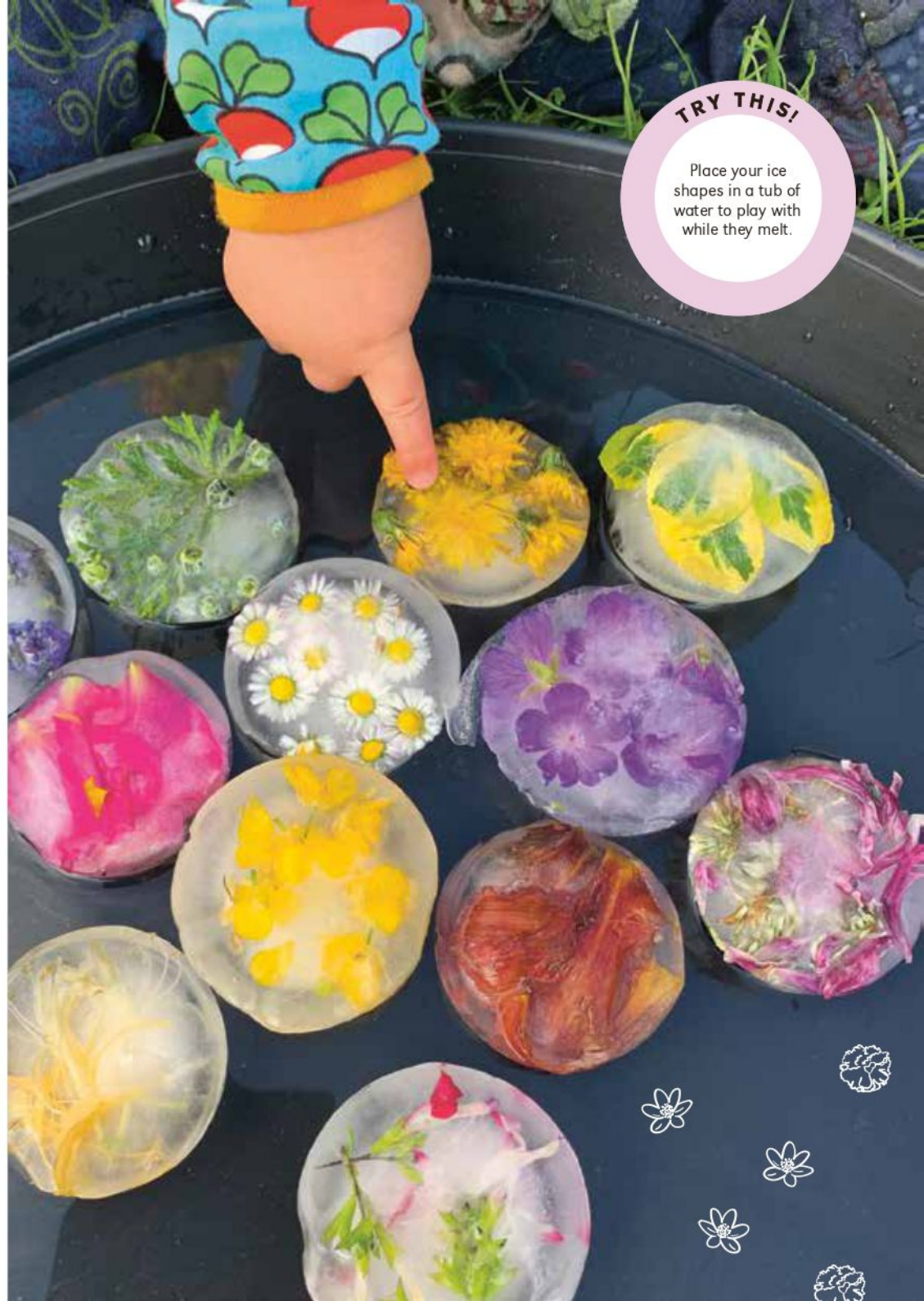
MORE IDEAS

- If the water isn't as **clear** as you'd like, next time boil your water and let it cool completely before making your frozen flowers.
- Use **edible flowers** such as pansies, geraniums, or miniature roses and add your ice cubes to a drink, but double-check with an adult that your flowers aren't poisonous.



TRY THIS!

Place your ice shapes in a tub of water to play with while they melt.





15–45
mins

SPLATTER PAINTING

Rembrandt, Matisse, da Vinci are all artists who meticulously and painstakingly painted their subjects and scenes with great care. But that's not what this activity is all about! Splatter painting is not about precision or accuracy, but about being wild and free and having no limitations on what you do with paint.



SUPPLIES

- Paper, canvas, or plastic sheeting
- Runny paint—liquid watercolor or watered-down tempera or acrylic paint
- Cups for paint
- Paintbrushes or spoons
- Sticks (optional)
- Art smock
- Drop cloth (optional)



INSTRUCTIONS

1. It's highly recommended to do this outside. If you're using a surface that needs protecting from paint, lay a drop cloth under your paper. It's also a good idea to protect your clothes with an art smock.
2. Fill cups with different paint colors.
3. Dip a paintbrush or spoon into the paint and then fling it at your paper.
4. Try splattering paint super close to the canvas and also far away. What difference does it make to the paint drop size?
5. Experiment with wrist flicks, full arm motions, circular, and up and down motions.



Splatter painting is about making a mess that is **fun**, **colorful**, and **unique**!

EXTRA TIME



- Once your splattered paint is dry, use the colorful paper to make **garlands** or a **pennant** by cutting triangles or flag shapes, stringing them together, and then hanging them on your wall.
- If you use a drop cloth, use the **colorful fabric** to drape over your stick fort.



TRY THIS!

Use sticks to scratch decorations in the paint.



60 mins

BEACH ART

Refreshing water ... sand between your toes ... the sun setting over the horizon ... nothing can make a day at the beach better. Or can it? Have you ever made beach art? Scour the shore for interesting items that have washed ashore—sea shells, driftwood, rocks, or even a crab claw or two—and use the sand as your vast canvas.



SUPPLIES

- Towel (or bucket)
- Colorful rocks
- Sea shells
- Sea glass
- Driftwood



INSTRUCTIONS

1. Grab a towel to use as a mini basket as you go off down the beach to hunt for treasures to create your art with! Look closely along the edges of the water or in the shallow water for anything that you might be able to use to create something beautiful in the sand.
2. Use your riches to make your art. It could be a rainbow, a self-portrait, a scene with a house and tree, or even a decorated magical sand castle, complete with seashell windows and a driftwood drawbridge.
3. You can't take your beach display home with you, so take a photo to remember your brilliant creation.

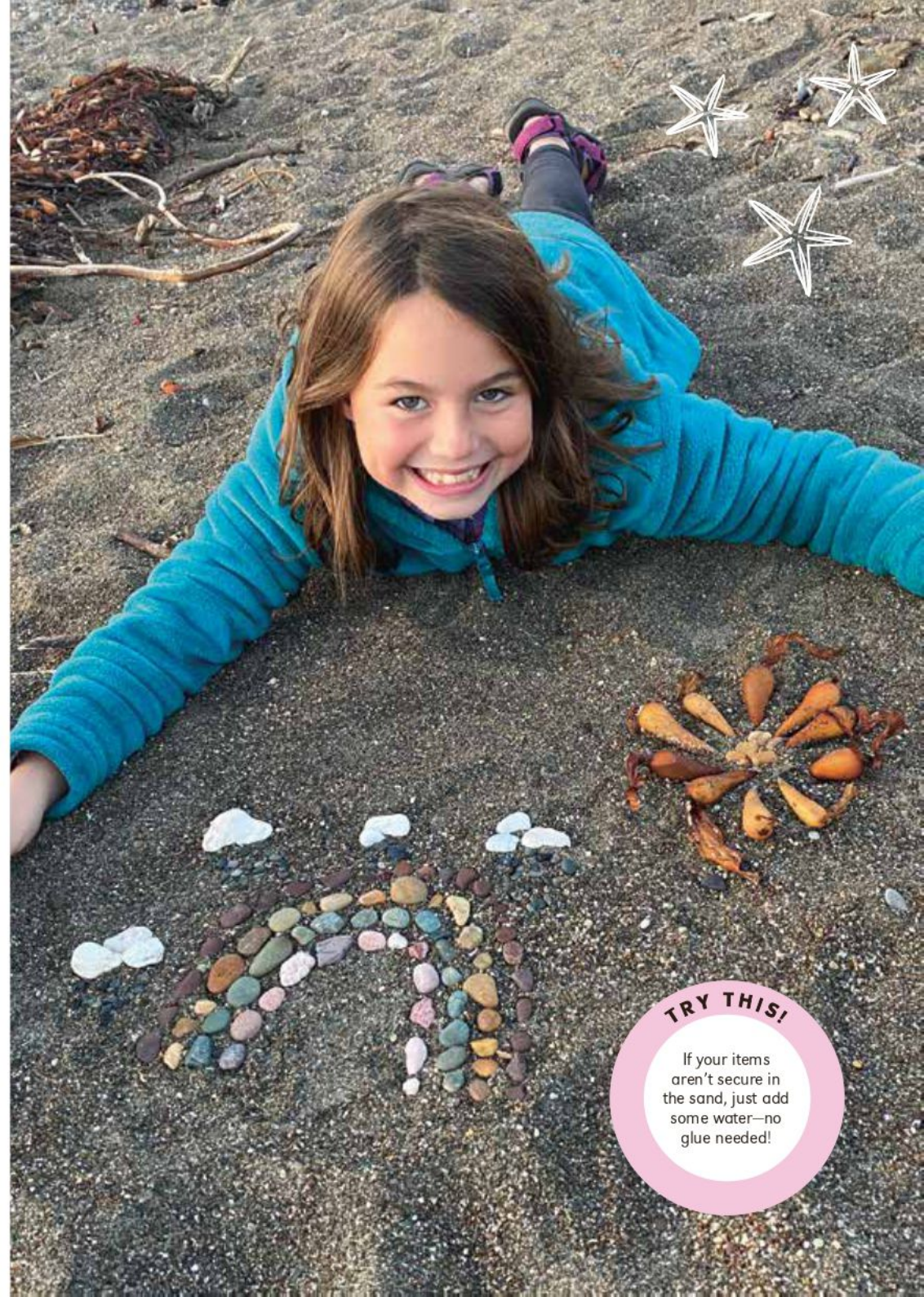


Even similar objects like flat shells can bring a wide array of **colors** and **details** to your art.



TIP

- When you leave, be sure to not leave anything unnatural in the sand. If you can, **collect any beach trash** you find so you can throw it away—every bit helps! But ask an adult before you pick up anything sharp or unusual.



TRY THIS!

If your items aren't secure in the sand, just add some water—no glue needed!