

Grade 8 -- Informational

The Art of Sand-casting

If you have ever gone to a beach and spent time building a sandcastle, you already know that making statues and other objects with sand can be great fun and a true test of your imagination. You can create amazing structures with just some simple tools such as buckets, shovels, and sticks. Of course, you must build quickly and accept the fact that your art is temporary due to the tide or waves that will eventually erase your burst of creativity.

Sand-casting provides a way to preserve your sandy sculptures for years to come. This technique can be used at the nearest beach, but you can also do it at home—even in the middle of a cold, winter afternoon.

Sand-casting requires only a few simple materials. Before starting a project, be sure an adult is available to help you.

You will need:

- sheets of newspaper
- shallow containers, such as a pie pan, shoebox, egg carton lid, or baking pan to use as the mold
- brown or white sand
- vegetable oil
- wooden paint stick
- spoon
- clean, empty coffee can or a gallon milk jug cut in half
- pebbles, shells, stones, marbles, twigs, old jewelry, aquarium gravel, or other colorful items for decorating
- plaster of Paris
- water
- paper clip or piece of wire
- paintbrush
- decorative gel glue

Here are the steps for making a unique sand-casting project:

1. Cover your work surface with a layer of newspaper to keep it clean.
2. Use a shallow container, such as a pie pan, as your mold. Fill the container half full with brown or white sand.
3. Add enough vegetable oil for the sand to stick together. Make patterns in the sand using your fingers, hands, a wooden paint stick, or a spoon.
4. Next, add the decorations you have gathered. Place them randomly or use them to create a unique design. Push the objects into the sand to make a clear impression.
5. Following the directions on the plaster of Paris package, carefully empty the mix into a coffee can or a gallon milk jug that has been cut in half. Add water to the plaster of Paris and stir with a wooden stick. Stir the mixture until it is the consistency of glue. Remember that you need to work quickly, because plaster of Paris hardens rapidly.
6. Slowly spoon one to two inches of plaster of Paris into the mold.
7. Smooth the surface of the plaster and then insert a paper clip or a loop of wire in the top center of your sand-cast. The paper clip or wire will be used to hang your project on the wall. Allow your sand-cast to dry overnight.

8. Carefully and slowly lift the sand-cast out of the mold and use a paintbrush to brush off any extra sand that might be clinging to it.
9. Brush a coat of decorative gel glue over the top surface of the sand-cast with a paintbrush. The gel glue will seal the sand-casting project and give it a glossy appearance.
10. After the glue is dry, find the perfect place to display your art.

Adding Pizzazz

- Use your creativity when thinking of new ideas for sand-casting.
- Make a handprint or a footprint—your own or someone else’s.
- Use other objects as a mold, such as a large, clean seashell.
- Add unusual items to the mold, such as feathers, pinecones, plastic toys, or beads.
- Mosaic sand-casts can be made by including marbles and glass gems in the mold. Pieces of beach glass or ceramic tiles could also be used, but these objects require careful handling because they have sharp edges.
- If you are making your sand-casting project at the beach, look around for items like seaweed, shells, starfish, rocks, or driftwood to add interest to your art.
- Use a toothpick to draw fine lines or include words in your pattern.
- Your sand-cast does not have to be displayed on a wall. You can create a special steppingstone for your garden. Your work of art can be the center of attention along a walking path in your yard. Building a sandcastle at the beach is a creative endeavor, but you have to leave your masterpiece behind and allow the tides or waves to wash it away. With sand-casting, you can create an art piece that will last a lifetime and provide a memento of enjoyable times at the beach.

1) Which organizational pattern is used in this passage? (LA.8.1.6.e)

- a) compare/contrast
- b) fact/opinion
- c) sequence
- d) spatial

2) Which book would contain this passage? (LA.8.1.6.j)

- a) Hands on Crafts: Twenty Minute Crafts
- b) Kids Crafts: Activities You Can Make Yourself
- c) Polymer Clay: 30 Projects to Roll, Mold and Squish
- d) Nature Crafts: 101 Ways to Craft with Natural and Found Items

3) What is the point of view in this passage? (LA.8.1.6.a)

- a) first person
- b) second person
- c) third person limited
- d) third person omniscient

4) What change occurs as a result of adding the prefix **un- to usual? (LA.8.1.5.a)**

- a) The word becomes less intense.
- b) The word becomes more intense.
- c) The word takes on the opposite meaning.
- d) The word takes on a different part of speech.

C4L Reading - Item Writing Tally Sheet

Grade 8 - Informational

Passage Name: The Art of Sandcasting

Gr8 Vocabulary	DOK Level	DOK 1	DOK 2	DOK 3	Item Total
LA 8.1.5 Vocabulary: Students will build literary, general academic, and content specific grade level vocabulary.					
<b style="color: red;">LA 8.1.5.a <i>Determine meaning of words through structural analysis, using knowledge of Greek, Latin, and Anglo-Saxon roots, prefixes, and suffixes to understand complex words, including words in science, mathematics, and social studies</i>	1, 2	1			1
<b style="color: red;">LA 8.1.5.c <i>Select a context clue strategy to determine meaning of unknown word appropriate to text (e.g., restatement, example, gloss, annotations, sidebar)</i>	2				
<b style="color: red;">LA 8.1.5.d <i>Analyze semantic relationships (e.g., figurative language, connotations, subtle distinctions)</i>	2,3				
Gr8 Comprehension	DOK Level	DOK 1	DOK 2	DOK 3	Item Total
LA 8.1.6 Comprehension: Students will extract and construct meaning using prior knowledge, applying text information, and monitoring comprehension while reading grade level text.					
<b style="color: red;">LA 8.1.6.a <i>Analyze the meaning, reliability, and validity of the text considering author's purpose, perspective, and information from additional sources</i>	3				
<b style="color: red;">LA 8.1.6.c <i>Analyze author's use of literary devices (e.g., foreshadowing, personification, idiom, oxymoron, hyperbole, flashback, suspense, symbolism, irony, transitional devices)</i>	2, 3				
<b style="color: red;">LA 8.1.6.d <i>Summarize, analyze, and synthesize informational text using main idea and supporting details</i>	2, 3				
<b style="color: red;">LA 8.1.6.e <i>Apply knowledge of organizational patterns found in informational text (e.g., sequence, description, cause and effect, compare / contrast, fact / opinion, proposition / support)</i>	2		1		1
<b style="color: red;">LA 8.1.6.f <i>Analyze and evaluate information from text features (e.g., index, annotations, maps, charts, tables, graphs, headings, subheadings, lists)</i>	2, 3				

LA 8.1.6.g <i>Analyze and make inferences based on the characteristics of narrative and informational genres</i>	2, 3				
LA 8.1.6.j <i>Generate and/or answer literal, inferential, critical, and interpretive questions, analyzing and synthesizing prior knowledge, information from the text and additional sources, to support answers</i>	1, 2, 3			1	1