



Mindy's Meteor Creations



Mindy is the ornery 4-year-old neighbor of Jet! She loves to learn about things but also likes to play tricks and bury things! Mindy is only 4 so she cannot travel away from her block. Jet and his big friends went to the moon to learn about the craters. The big kids found out that meteors or asteroids hitting the moon's surface formed the craters. Poor Mindy did not get to go! Mindy has decided to create her own crater art by throwing meteors at paper! She has made some great pictures! Try it yourself!

What you'll need:

- Pictures moon with craters
- 5 coffee filters
- 5 twist ties
- Powder paint (multiple colors)
- Plastic spoons
- Large, white construction paper
- Spray water bottle
- Hard, flat surface
- Sharpie (for signing art)

The Activity:

- Have children examine the pictures of the moon. Point out the pockmarked surface and explain to children that the irregularities on the surface are called craters.
- Ask children how they believe the craters had been formed. Allow children to answer and encourage creativity.
- Explain to children that meteors or asteroids slamming into the surface of the moon form the craters! An asteroid is a rocky object in space that is not as big as a planet and is not a moon. A meteor is an asteroid that burns up as it enters the Earth's atmosphere. These terms are usually used interchangeably because a true, consistent definition has not been agreed upon.
- Allow each child to place about three spoonfuls of the same color of powder paint into the middle of a coffee filter. Ask parents to assist children in wrapping a twist tie around the end to create a bulging ball of paint. The paint needs to be tightly packed into a ball with the twist tie tightly attached.
- Have children create five powder paint balls.
- Allow children to spray white construction paper with water. Place the wet construction paper on a hard surface.
- Have children pretend that the balls of powder paint are meteors/asteroids and throw them onto their paper. These should explode, creating a unique piece of art. Make sure they sign their art!

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