

Foam Painting



Engage and Reflect

Watch *Virtual Vitamin Z - Discover More About Mountain Chicken Frogs*

<https://youtu.be/wt-tMGd1KHc>



Skills

- Measurement
- Observations
- Color recognition
- Making predictions



Visual Arts

- Apply skills and knowledge to create in the arts.

NGSS Science and Engineering Practices

- Structure and properties of matter



Experience

- 5-10 minutes
- 1 or more people

Mountain chicken frogs make unique foam nests that help keep their eggs in the moist environment they need to survive. You can make foam paint by using common household materials and then use your mixture to create artwork. Add food coloring drops to create different colors of foam paint. Your artwork will have a foamy consistency that maintains its structure, like a mountain chicken frog's nest, even as it dries.



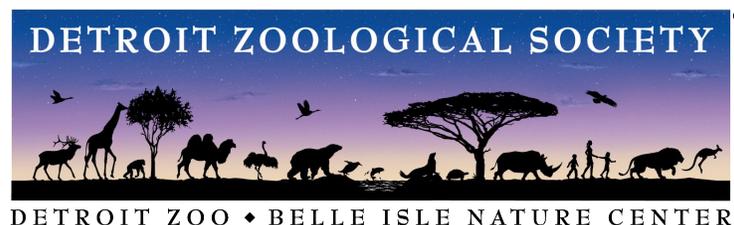
Celebrating and Saving Wildlife

The Detroit Zoo is one of only five U.S. zoos that provides a home to the mountain chicken frog. It can be seen at the award-winning National Amphibian Conservation Center – a leader in amphibian conservation and research – which houses a spectacular diversity of frogs, toads, salamanders, newts and caecilians. Animal care staff lead and support conservation and research work that is critical for endangered populations, including the critically endangered mountain chicken frog.



Take Action

The exotic pet trade contributes to declining populations of vulnerable amphibians in the wild. Keeping exotic pets can also spread diseases through local amphibian populations. You can help protect exotic and local species by making responsible pet choices and by not releasing captive animals into the wild.



Foam Painting

Tools

1 cup flour
3 teaspoons baking soda
1 teaspoon salt
1 cup water
Drops of food coloring

OR

1 cup glue
1 cup shaving cream
Drops of food coloring



1 or more people

Directions

- Measure out ingredients
- Participants should check consistency of foam to see that it is loose enough to spread with a paint brush but thick enough to keep its shape.
- Think about what adjustments need to be made to find that perfect consistency. Add water if foam is too stiff, add flour if foam is too loose.
- Separate foam into several small bowls.
- Use drops of food coloring to create different colors.
- Mix food coloring drops to create new shades, as you do this, make predictions on what colors will appear from each mixture.
- Once you've created all your shades, you're ready to paint!
- Using a wide paintbrush or your fingers, make sure that you're not spreading the foam out too thinly when painting; as the paint dries, it might lose its shape if you've spread it too thin.
- Your final product will be a 3-D painting.

Notes - The first recipe is safe for young learners who might accidentally consume some of the paint. To make recipe completely edible, bake flour for 5 minutes and allow it to cool before mixing ingredients.

For more of a challenge, provide materials to learners and allow them to experiment and create their own recipes.