Red Dirt Redbud

- water
- garden soil
- bucket
- light blue construction paper
- pink and lavender tissue paper
- pencils, with erasers
- glue
- brown felt tip marker

1. Mix water and garden soil in a bucket to make mud.
2. Each student will dip his/her hand and wrist into the mud.
3. Each student will carefully place his/her hand on the construction paper, spreading fingers to create prints of branches. The wrist print will serve as the tree trunk.
4. Allow the wrist print to dry.
5. Students will create blossoms (1 to 1 1/2-inch squares) of the tissue paper.
6. Students will twist the tissue paper squares around a pencil eraser and use the pencil to gently press the squares onto dots of glue placed on the blue construction paper near the "branches." The tissue should come off the eraser easily.
7. Repeat until the tree is full of blossoms. It should look similar to an Oklahoma redbud as it blooms.
8. If there are missing sections of the "tree" or if students want more detail, they can add lines with the marker.

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Play Dough
1 cup flour
1 tablespoon oil
1 cup water
1/4 cup salt
a few drops peppermint flavoring
food coloring
2 t cream of tartar

1. Cook all ingredients over medium heat until the mixture pulls away from the side of the pan and reaches the consistency of playdough.
2. Knead until cool.
3. Store in an air tight container.

Surprise Play Dough
Same ingredients as for Play Dough above

1. Cook all ingredients EXCEPT FOOD COLORING over medium heat until the mixture pulls away from the side of the pan and reaches the consistency of playdough.
2. Knead until cool.
3. Divide the dough into balls, one for each student.
4. Hide a few drops of food coloring in the center of each ball but DO NOT MIX. Use different amounts and colors of drops in each ball so that each child's dough will be different. As students start to play with their dough, they discover there is color and that the colors are different.

Bubble Solution
4 cups sugar 4 quarts water 2 cups dish washing liquid

1. Stir the sugar into the water until it dissolves.
2. Add the dish washing liquid and stir again.
3. Divide the solution (four quarts) into several shallow tubs or buckets.
4. Provide slotted spoons, canning rings, plastic lids with centers cut out or flyswatters for blowing bubbles.