

St. Anthony – Activity – Dig for Lost Treasure!

This activity could be used as a fun activity for an All Saint's Day event. But please remember it will take a few weeks to dry so plan ahead!

You will need:

- Mixture of sand and corn starch (3 parts sand to 1 part corn starch)
- water
- old bucket or other large trash-able container
- Mixing stick or spoon (trash-able)
- Foil cake pan or disposable plastic cups
- Small "treasures" (beads, sequins, shells, small plastic animals, marbles, gems, other small toys that are solid – no moving parts)
- paper towels or napkins
- popsicle sticks for each child

First put your sand and corn starch together in a bucket or other container. (Choose a container that you don't care if it gets messed up. The sand will scratch it.) We used about 6 cups of sand and 2 cups of corn starch to fill a 13x9 inch foil pan.

Add enough water to make the mixture liquidity with a consistency of a **very thick** cake/cookie batter. You don't want it to be runny, the more liquidly the mixture is the longer it will take to dry and the harder it will be to break apart.

Pour half the mixture into a pan. Use something that can be trashed later. We used a 13x9 inch foil pan. You could also use plastic cups if you want to give each child their own personal treasure dig.

Now add your treasures!! Make a layer of the toys over the sand/cornstarch mixture.

Now top it with the remaining sand/corn starch mixture. Pat the top of it with your stir-stick or your hand to get it to settle. You might need to push the treasures back down in as you pat it.

As the water rises to the top, use some paper towels or napkins to pat the water off the top. Continue to pat the paper towel/napkins on the top until you stop seeing excess water.

Every hour for several hours, pat the water from the top. After a few hours the water should stop rising. The amount of water that rises depends on how wet your mixture was.

Place your sand-cake(s) in a warm dry spot for a week or two. (Maybe three) We placed our foil cake pan on a cookie sheet for easy transport.

After a few weeks you should have a rock solid sand-cake!

Now it's time for the kids to have fun!

Now that the "cake" is dry have the kids use wooden popsicle sticks to dig into it to find the treasures!

Warning: It is messy and dusty when they break it up! You might want to do it outside or in a garage.

