

ACTIVITY #1 - MAKE YOUR OWN 18TH CENTURY MARBLES

Materials:

- Salt
- Water
- Cornstarch
- Aluminum Foil

Directions:

1. Combine 3 cups of salt with 1 cup of water in medium saucepan over medium heat.
2. Add in 1 cup of cornstarch gradually a tablespoon at a time, stirring well after every addition.
3. Stir the mixture continuously until it thickens, becomes a sticky mass and pulls away from the pot.
4. Spoon the mass of cornstarch clay onto a sheet of aluminum foil. Allow it to cool to the point that you can handle it comfortably.
5. Knead the mass until it is a stiff dough that is no longer sticky.
6. Break off small pieces of the dough and form them into marbles; rolling them in your hands until they are ball shapes.
7. Set the marbles on a dish on the counter to air dry for 24 to 48 hours. The marbles will have a smooth, hard finish suitable for painting, if you wish.

How to Play Marbles:

- Draw a large circle on the floor using chalk, masking tape or yarn approximately 10 feet round.
- Make a big "X" or criss-cross in the middle with 13 marbles.
- Give each player a big marble, called a "shooter"
- Then take the big marble and rest it on the bottom of your index finger.
- Put the nail of your thumb under your index finger and flick your thumb up to hit the marbles.
- Try to knock the target marbles out with your shooter.
- Now three things can happen: (1) You could knock a marble and your shooter out of the circle, (2) You could knock a marble out, but not your shooter, or (3) You can hit nothing.
- The marbles you knock out are yours.
- You keep your turn if your shooter stays in the circle.
- The Winner is the one who collects seven (7) marbles first!

