Due Date: __________

Your child will construct a relief map of California using salt, flour and water. They will then paint their three-dimensional maps and label the important geographic features of our state, such as mountain ranges, rivers, cities, etc. This lesson works well as a culminating activity after in-depth study of the geographic features of California. The salt map will be worth 30 points. The map will be graded for neatness, accuracy of information, and inclusion of details. Parents are encouraged to help and contribute to the project, however the majority of the work and responsibility is up to the student.

INSTRUCTIONS

Materials you will need:
A flat piece of heavy cardboard (such as the side of a heavy cardboard box); large mixing bowl; measuring cup; pencil; paint; paint brushes; California Map; list of required items; and lots of time and patience.

Parent guidance is advised but remember this is the student’s project, not the parents’.

Recipe:
1 cup of table salt
2 cups of flour (use all-purpose flour, not self-rising flour)
1 cup of water

Directions:
1. In pencil, draw or trace an outline of California on your cardboard.
2. Mix the salt, flour, and water in a large bowl until smooth and pliable (like cookie dough, not runny like cake batter). You might need to add more water or flour and salt to get the right consistency. You might also need to double or triple this recipe, depending on the size of your map.
3. Spread a thick layer of the mixture within the outline of California, trimming any excess.
4. Refer to your state map. With your hands, use more mixture to form the elevated regions.
5. Form the river with a pencil or knife.
6. Set your relief map aside in a safe place to dry. The drying time will depend on how thick your mixture is and the weather. Your map must dry naturally. If you try to speed up the drying process in any way, such as putting it in an oven or using a hair dryer, it is extremely likely it will crack and you have to start over.
7. After your map is dry, make a map legend.
8. Paint your map according to your legend and locate and label the required items on your map. BE CREATIVE AND HAVE FUN AS YOU LEARN ABOUT OUR STATE.
Hints:
For a more attractive map, don’t put your map directly on bare cardboard, paint it.
Use a ruler to measure the map and draw to scale.
Print out labels using a computer or write the labels by hand. Cut them and glue them down neatly or use them to make flags on toothpicks.

REQUIRED ITEMS

Instructions:
The following geographic locations must be clearly labeled (see Hints section) AND in their correct locations on your salt map. Use the same numbering system as below.

Color the geographic regions of the state (coast, valley, mountain, desert) different colors (the California part of your map should be 4 different colors, one for each region). Be sure to match those colors on your map legend. Also include a compass rose.

You may add more items for extra points, but be careful not to add so many that your map is crowded and hard to read.

Include all of the following:
1. Pacific Ocean
2. Oregon
3. Nevada
4. Arizona
5. Mexico
6. Los Angeles
7. San Francisco
8. Sacramento
9. Tracy
10. Desert Region
11. Mountain Region
12. Coastal Region
13. Valley Region
14. Lake Tahoe
15. Sacramento River
16. San Joaquin River
17. Colorado River
18. Map Legend
19. Compass Rose

I have read and understand the requirements and due date for the Salt Map Project.

Student Signature:

Parent Signature:

Date: