



# ACADEMY SCIENCE CAMP

from home

## Building a Termite Mound

Many animals will build their homes out of different supplies. Some insects build mounds such as ants, termites and mud dauber wasps.

### Know before you begin

- This activity can be done inside or outside, but it is very messy
- All supplies are easy to find, substitute or leave out entirely
- Adult supervision is recommended
- Please choose a safe space to play

### Materials

- Paper mailing tubes
- 1-part flour, 1-part dirt, 1-part salt mixture
- Baking pan or another large container to build mound in
- Plastic cup with water fill line marked
- Water





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## Instructions

1. Grab a scoop of prepared dirt mixture from big bin, pour into a baking pan.
2. Fill water cup with the same amount you used for your 1-part flour, 1-part dirt and 1-part salt mixture. Dump water into pan with dirt mixture.
3. Combine the dirt mixture and the water with your hands to form a dough. Add more dry mix or water if necessary.

*What do you think termites use to make the soil into a dough-like consistency?*

*Do we use similar materials or methods to build our homes/roads/structures?*

*What do you think these tubular columns are used for in a termite mound?*

*Where do humans use similar cooling/ventilation methods?*

4. Use the dirt mixture and tubes to make the termite mound.

