

# “In the Wild”

## Module 1, Adventure 1

The logo for "EXPLORE IT" is enclosed in a black rectangular border. The word "EXPLORE" is in a bold, sans-serif font, with the letter "O" replaced by a green circle. The word "IT" is in a smaller, regular sans-serif font.

### Prompt:

Follow the instructions to create your own custom playdough. Then think about various physical features throughout the animal kingdom - different types of faces, body-types, sizes, colors, limbs, hair, etc. Combine features of your choice to create a new animal that doesn't already exist. You can reshape the Playdough into this new animal from your imagination, or plants, or other things found in nature.

Note: This activity could get messy! Please find a space in your home accordingly :)

### Materials:

- 1 Small Bowl
- 1 Medium Bowl
- 2 Mixing Spoons
- Measuring Cups
- Measuring Spoons
- *Optional: Explorer Notebook*

### Playdough Ingredients:

- 2 cups flour
- ½ cup salt
- ½ teaspoon Cream of Tartar (optional)
- 1 cup warm water
- 3 teaspoons cooking oil
- A few drops of food coloring (optional)
- Sand or spices (optional)

### Instructions:

1. Read the full instructions before you begin. You may choose to watch [this video](#), in which our fellow guide at Boston Children's Museum, Laura, creates her own playdough.
2. Mix the dry ingredients in a medium-sized bowl.
3. In a separate small bowl, mix the wet ingredients.
4. Slowly add the wet mixture to the dry mixture. Stir with a spoon until the dough starts to stick together.

5. Pat your hands with flour. Knead the dough until it's smooth and not sticky.
6. Other Tips and Tricks:
  - a. The dough should be firm and not sticky. If it feels wet, add a little more flour. If it feels dry, add a little more water.
  - b. Add some spices to change the smell. Or add a little sand to change the texture.
  - c. Cream of tartar makes the dough more elastic and helps it last longer. If you don't have any, it's fine to leave out.
7. Wash your hands!
8. Use your playdough to make different animals, plants, and other things in nature.
9. Spend five minutes thinking about various features of animals in different habitats. Use your imagination to create a new animal!
  - a. Sketch the animal you create in your Explorer Notebook.
10. Shape your playdough into the animal you invented! You can also form a new plant, tree, or flower out of your playdough!

### **Resources:**

1. Let's Make Playdough! - This is a video created by Boston Children's Museum staff, explaining how to make your own playdough, and incorporate nature and Earth themes. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zmvBdJx\\_Nol](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zmvBdJx_Nol)

### **Extensions:**

Here are some ways to extend your adventure:

1. Find items in nature (ex. pine cone, leaf, stick, stone, etc.) and press them into your playdough to create a 3-dimensional mold/print.
2. Make playdough again, but this time you can customize the scent (lemon zest, ground cinnamon, or vanilla extract) and/or the appearance (glitter, glow pigment, etc.).
3. Zoologist Thought Experiment - Name your imaginary animal. What is its habitat? What does it eat? How big is it? Where can you find it?
4. Take a picture or quick video to share on Flipgrid (optional). For more information on how to use Flipgrid, visit our [\\*LINK TO HOW-TO Wiki\\*](#)

