

Innovative Iowans: Handprint Activity

Activity Overview: California may be home to the famous Grauman's Chinese Theater, but the State Historical Museum of Iowa also has a collection of celebrity handprints. This Innovative Iowan activity highlights Produce Iowa's Iowa celebrity handprint collection, and provides instruction on how to create your very own handprints to either give as a gift or enjoy for years to come.

Connection to Iowa History

Produce Iowa, also called the State Office of Media Production, has collected the handprints of many visiting Iowa celebrities over the past few years. Handprints include producer Norman Lear, actress Cloris Leachman, writer Andrew Steele, actor Brandon Routh, personality Mike Wolfe, director Don Hall and actor Tom Arnold. The cemented prints, all signed and inscribed with messages from the stars, are on display in the museum's *Hollywood in the Heartland* exhibit. Explore the exhibit to learn more about Iowa's rich history in movies and film.

Instructions

- 1 Make Salt Dough.** *If using Model Magic, please move to Step 3.* To make salt dough, combine all the ingredients (flour, salt and warm water) in a large bowl. Mix well until it starts to form a dough
- 2 Knead.** Once dough has formed, remove it from the bowl and knead for at least ten minutes.
- 3 Flatten.** Lay dough or Model Magic on a flat surface covered in parchment paper. Flatten the dough with a rolling pin or the palm of your hand. This should form a pancake-like shape.
- 4 Press.** With a clean hand, gently press your hand evenly and firmly in the center of the flattened dough or Model Magic. After removing your hand, a handprint should be made.
- 5 Optional Step.** Using a straw, poke a hole in the top center of the circle of dough. This will serve as a place for ribbon once dried. After drying, string a ribbon or yarn through the hole and tie for hanging.
- 6 Dry.** Using a straw, poke a hole in the top center of the circle of dough. This will serve as a place for ribbon once dried. After drying, string a ribbon or yarn through the hole and tie for hanging.
- 7 Decorate.** Decorate your handprint with some color. Colored markers work best and be creative!
- 8 Gift.** These handprints can either be given out as a gift or hung up for display. If you make more than one handprint, you can create your own Walk of Fame.
- 9 Share.** If you would like to share your creation with the State Historical Museum of Iowa, please email photos to museum.education@iowa.gov. We want to share your creation with other young historians!

Materials

- Model Magic or Salt Dough
- Colored Markers
- Rolling Pin
- Bowl
- Wax or Parchment Paper

Salt Dough Ingredients

- 4 cups All Purpose Flour
- 1 cup Salt
- 1.5 cups Warm Water

Optional

- Drinking Straw
- Ribbon or Yarn

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Questions to Spark Learning

- If you could have the handprints of any famous Iowan, who would it be? Why?
- Why would an organization want to collect famous people's handprints?
- Why do you think people like to collect autographs, photographs, or handprints of famous people?

Additional Resources

- [Produce Iowa Website](#)
- State Historical Museum of Iowa - [Hollywood in the Heartland exhibit](#)
- [Grauman's Chinese Theater](#)