

ACTIVITIES

Feel the Impact

Making 3-D Crater Models



Three dimensional models can easily be made of pictures of impact craters of those conjured from the imagination. One of the simplest methods is to use modeling clay. A variety of colors can be used for low vision students which would allow them to use the different colors to create unique characteristics for their crater.

One of the best features about using modeling clay is that there is no need for elaborate equipment, just nimble fingers and even those do not need to be very nimble.

You might want to have craft sticks available for students to add different attributes to the crater model.

You as a teacher may choose to create models of pictures you can readily obtain on the Web. Without a great amount of time invested, you can quickly make tactile models of the pictures.



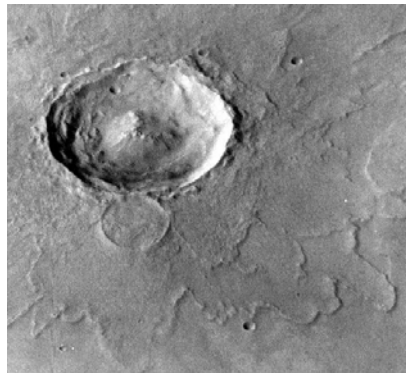
By putting your models in a refrigerator the night before you will be using them, you will find that they will withstand some fairly rough handling without needing to be remade.



Better yet, have your low-vision students create clay models from various pictures to be used. Getting student's hands physically involved in making the models will secure crater characteristics firmly in their long term memories and makes the class interesting for them. At the same time, have the totally blind students create models of what they imagine a crater to look like and then compare these with the models created from the pictures.



One of the great things about using clay is that if you don't like what was just done, "squish it" and start over.



Using modeling clay allows you to become as elaborate as you wish and gives one the opportunity to put into three dimensional models some very detailed pictures.



It took about three minutes to make this model of the Aerogel ejecta picture.

