

Mountain Seed Art

Create a collage of layered mountain habitats and terrain!



Materials: Dry seeds, grains, and beans*, bowls, Denali Outline Template (or draw your own), liquid glue, paintbrush (to apply glue).

*Suggestions: Split pea, corn, red lentils (for summer and fall vegetation colors), white rice (snow and glaciers), sunflower seeds, brown rice, quinoa, buckwheat, flax seed, wheat berries (rocky terrain), beans (boulders).

Fill bowls with various types of dried seeds, grains, and beans. Choose different colors and textures.

Apply glue to one area of the Denali outline.

Sprinkle dried seeds, grains, or beans on the area.

Tilt the paper to remove excess seeds.

Repeat the process to create layers on your mountain.

Let dry and enjoy your sensory mountain art!



A Mountain Landscape

A mountain is land that rises high above its surroundings. It is created by plate tectonics: the movement of plates that form the Earth's crust pushing up layers of rock where they meet. It takes several million years for mountains to rise. Mountains are a diverse landscape, with the terrain and ecosystem changing from lower to higher elevations.



NPS Photo

Rocky Slopes: Steep slopes, avalanches, and strong winds prevent vegetation from growing, leaving some areas bare and rocky. Large boulders can also be found scattered on the mountain, where ancient glaciers carried them.

Snow and Ice: Year-round snow and glacier-forming ice fields are found at high mountain elevations. This icy landscape is an extreme habitat which very few species inhabit, and is a challenge for mountain climbers!



NPS Photo



Fall landscape. NPS Photo.

Alpine Tundra: At elevations where snow melts in the summer, but the climate does not allow trees to grow, a diversity of species such as berries and low shrubs make a habitat for many mountain animals, including marmots, caribou, bears, and birds. In the fall, the alpine tundra turns beautiful shades of red, orange, and yellow.

Boreal Forest: In the lower areas, where it is warm and sheltered enough for trees to grow, the forest offers another important habitat for mountain species. There is a transition zone between the forests and alpine tundra, where shrubs grow higher and sparse trees grow.

Denali Outline Template

