

Big and Muddy



Background: Unlike most mammals, warthogs are not covered in thick fur. Although they do have some hair, their skin is left mostly exposed to the elements. In order to protect themselves from the adverse effects of the sun, ward off biting insects, and to cool off, they wallow in mud. As a result their skin often takes on the color of their local soil type.

Materials: Printed or sketched warthog silhouette (searchable online), container of wet dirt (mud), and popsicle stick or old paint brush

Instructions: Designate an area in your home or backyard as a craft area. Explain why animals like warthogs like to wallow in the mud. What do humans use instead of mud to stay cool, and to protect ourselves from the sun and bugs? Use the popsicle stick or paint brush to “paint” the warthog silhouette with mud. Leave your muddy silhouette in a sunny place to dry, and enjoy!