

Be Curious

Recycle Flora Prints

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Time Needed: 20-30 minutes

Arts Focus: Visual Arts

Age Range: 5-8

Mini-Lesson Description:

Learn to mix paint and use everyday objects to make shapes on paper. Learners are encouraged to make predictions about what new colors might come from mixing paints. This lesson re-purposes materials from around the house such as plastic lids and cardboard rolls.

Key Concepts:

Curiosity; Making Predictions; Experiment; Observation; Mixing Colors; Stamping; Printing; Textures.

Materials Needed/Prep:

- Hard surface (a floor or a table)
- Table covering, wipes, rags and/or paper towels to clean any paint spills
- Tempera or acrylic paint in black, white, and three colors of your choice (cool or warm or mix)
- White cardstock paper (8x10 or bigger)
- Two differently sized plastic or metal lids (examples: yogurt for large, soda pop or milk for medium)
- One straw cut in half
- Cardboard tubes from toilet paper or paper towels
- Flt plate or tray to pour paint onto
- Other objects to print and create patterns with, such as toe dividers, fly swatter, or sponges

Step-by-Step:

MAKE PREDICTIONS:

1. Explain that art making is a lot like science. Like scientists, artists try new things, make predictions about what might happen, and observe the results. Artists are curious!
2. Introduce color mixing. Pour small amounts of each color of paint onto a plate or tray. Ask the learner(s) to choose two colors and predict what new color they can make by mixing them. Ask them, what might happen if we mix all three? What might happen if we add white? Black?
3. Show the learner(s) the objects you will be printing with. Ask the learner(s)—what shapes can we make? How could we make a flower shape?

TRY SOMETHING NEW:

4. Pour the three colors onto the plate or tray. Spread the paint using a wide brush.
5. Using one color, stamp large circles around the paper, keep it geometric or go for as many circles you wish. Re-apply paint to the lid every time you make a print.
6. Using a second color, stamp medium circles around or inside the big circles or any other blank area that might need a circle. What shapes do you think will emerge? What do you hope it looks like?
7. Using a third color or the mix of three you previously experiment, print small circles using straws, inside or outside the shapes you have, make some predictions as you go! Be Curious!

OBSERVE THE RESULTS:

8. Look at the finished pieces—did they turn out like you expected? What new colors did you make? What would you like to try next time?

Variations and Next Steps:

- Expand the activity using cardboard tubes to create flowers:
 - Gather cardboard tubes (toilet paper or paper towels) or other shapes that can be found in the recycling bin.
 - Cut 1-inch lines around one edge of a cardboard tube and fold the tabs down to make “petals”.
 - Spread paint into tray and dip the “flower” end of the tube into the paint like a stamp.
 - Print on a white paper with the “flower” stamp using any color. Make patterns, layers, and new shapes!

Watch a video of this Creative Start Mini-Lesson and find more at: <https://www.arts.wa.gov/creative-start/>