



Kids in the Biosphere Club

Thursday: Creating Nature Art

Ice Chalk

Finally, the snow and ice have melted. Your driveway or the sidewalk outside are bare once again. Not for long!

MATERIALS

Cornstarch, water, food coloring, cupcake tins or silicone molds, a large spoon

1. Mix equal parts of cornstarch and water together.
2. Pour your mixture into your cupcake tins and add different food colouring. Stir in well. The colours will swirl at first but will soon blend.
3. Place your cupcake tin in the freezer and leave for several hours or overnight.
4. Take your chalk outside to try out on sidewalks and pavement!
5. Heads up! The chalk won't show up right away but as the water dries, the colours will start to show up.

Credit: www.weknowstuff.us.com/2014/08/kids-craft-ice-chalk.html

Nature as Art

Andy Goldsworthy is a famous and inspirational nature artist. He uses only what he finds in nature, such as branches, leaves, snow or ice, and stones, to make abstract and beautiful creations. Andy uses his senses to really look at materials and combine them together into something wonderful.



Try creating art like Andy Goldsworthy! Look at the natural space around you. Select some natural materials like sticks, leaves, and rocks to create your masterpieces. You can write your name, sculpt flowers or hearts, or even make a self-portrait. The options are limitless!

Credit: Andy Goldsworthy art projects www.livingyourwildcreativity.com/art-gallery-1-mitchell-1



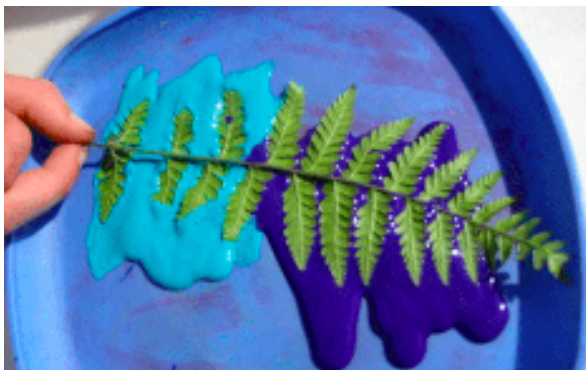
Plant Print Art

MATERIALS

Paint (more colours, more fun), white paper, shallow paint plates or scrap cardboard (reusable is best!)

1. Search your garden or nearby natural areas for leaves, tree needles, and flowers (remembering to take only small amounts, no more than what you need).
2. Place a thin layer of paint in your plates
3. Gently lay your leaf or flower in the paint
4. Stamp your leaf or flower on your white paper for a colourful creation!
5. Try layering different stamps on top of each other. Or combine different shapes and colours to create an image.

Credit: <https://nurturestore.co.uk/flower-printing-garden-art>



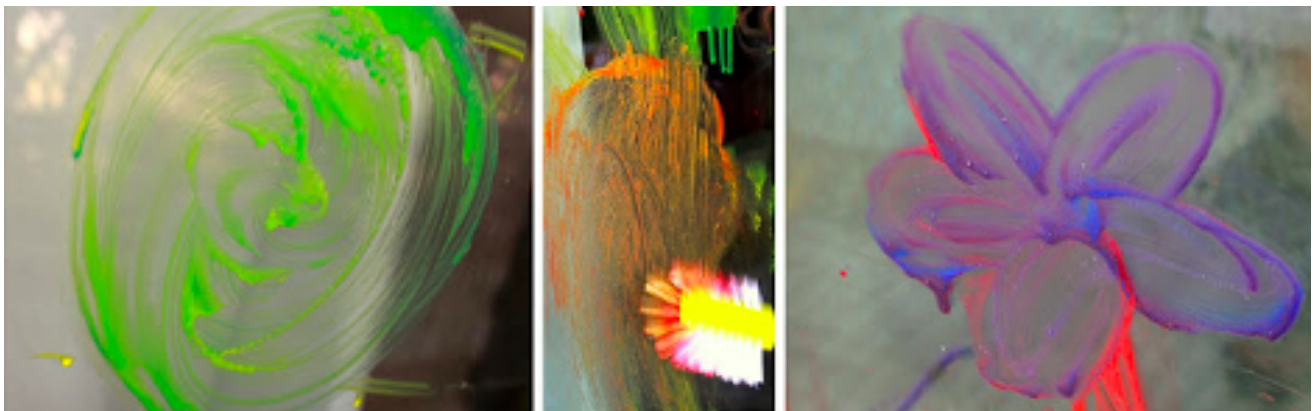
Art for Birds

Every year millions of birds collide with windows. To a bird, the glass looks like an open pathway to fly through. To prevent collisions, we need to help birds see the windows on our buildings. With tempera paint, use your imagination to paint designs on the inside of your windows. Don't worry, the paint will wash off!

MATERIALS

Dish soap, Tempera Paint for colour

1. Mix together and let your imagination take over!
2. Use a paintbrush or your fingers to paint the designs on your window canvas.
Another cool trick is to use nature paintbrushes. Nature paintbrushes are made from natural items found outdoors like pine needles, leaves, and blades of grass.



Helpful Tip

Small birds that fly through the forest are used to speeding through obstacles like branches and leaves. When you are painting, make sure that your designs are close enough together that small songbirds won't try to fly between them. A good rule of thumb is that designs shouldn't be more than 5 cm apart.

Learn more about bird-friendly windows: www.flap.org

Nature Frame

Take a picture, it will last longer! But what will you put it in? Nature itself is art and deserves a beautiful frame to show it off.

MATERIALS

Cardboard, scissors, cotton string, tape, sticks/flowers/leaves, camera

1. Take a piece of cardboard and cut a large square from the middle of it, leaving 3-4 inches around the edge.
2. Collect small amounts of natural supplies such as flowers, leaves, and rocks. Remember not to take more than you need.
3. Using string or tape, attach these pieces to your cardboard frame.
4. Once you're happy with your nature frame, take it outside and find lovely things to frame! These could be lichens on a rock or tree, mosses on the ground, or colourful insects. Simply place the frame over them and take a picture.
5. You can also draw a picture of something in nature and place it in your new frame!

Credits: stylesatlife.com/articles/nature-crafts/, littlepinelearners.com/a-beautiful-nature-frame/



Additional Resources

Books on Spring

www.treevalleyacademy.com/childrens-books-about-spring/

Why do some trees still have leaves? (younger kids)

www.youtube.com/watch/hwfQEK29Wrg

Tree Bark Information

www.theforestacademy.com/trees-in-our-lives/bark/#.YCGelndKjMI