

NATURE ACTIVITIES

SENSORY FLOWERS

Check out this project that involves creating flowers from and coffee filters and collage elements

PART ONE - OBSERVE

This part of the activity is a time to get outside and find wildflowers for inspiration!

Resources/materials needed: Journal, pencil, camera, natural space/backyard with wildflowers to find

Skills: Cognitive, Motor Skills, Environmental Appreciation, Hand-Eye Coordination, Technical Skills, Observation

DIRECTIONS:

Step 1: Go exploring and find wildflowers! If you are on a public land, do not pick, just observe. Keep appropriate social distance and take in the beauty of the wild!

Step 2: Find wildflowers! Animals love them too! Observe their color, shape, and smell. Use your camera to photograph the flowers you find. Take notes about your experience. What was the smell like? What landscape were the flowers located? Try to draw them. What were their petals like visually? Find the pattern of the overlap of petals. What kind of leaves does the flower have? Are they symmetrical? Think about how you will create flowers from the inspiration of what you have found.

Reflection: Talk about your experience. What colors did you see on the flowers? What were the textures? Did you see any bugs? Were any animals interacting with the flowers? How did you feel when you were with the wildflowers? How would you describe the scent? What flowers do you want to recreate as art?

PART TWO - FLOWER COLLAGE

Have old magazines, paper scraps, egg cartons, cardboard, and bottle caps? You can create flowers out



Photo Credit: Buggy and Buddy



Photo Credit: Make It Your Own



Photo Credit: Sharebly

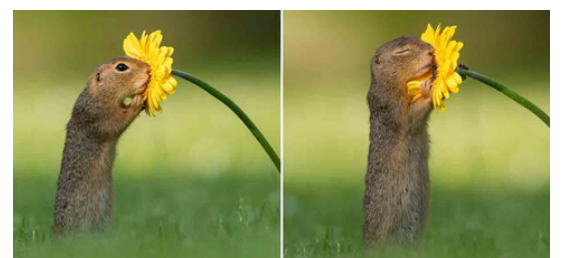


Photo Credit: Dick van Duijn

of these materials! Self-expression is encouraged!

Resources/materials needed: Paper, scraps, cardboard, markers, crayons, bottle caps, cardboard egg cartons, tape (masking works well), bottle caps, craft or acrylic paint, brushes, water, paint mixing surface (paper plate, wax paper, etc), and rag or paper towel, glue, natural items (leaves, acorns, sticks)

Skills: Cognitive, Motor, Hand-Eye Coordination, Environmental Appreciation, Creativity, Self-Expression, Whole Brain-Development

DIRECTIONS:

Step 1: Reflect in your journal and photos of the wildflowers that you have developed. Figure out how you would like to portray these wildflowers through the materials you have. If you had something more bell shape you may be able to use egg carton pieces.

Step 2: Prepare an art making area. This should include the paper, a surface for gluing collage elements to such as cardboard or heavy paper, scissors, magazine cutouts bottle caps, and other art supplies you may have.

Step 3: Try to make layers of the petals: a simple shape back/outer layer, middle layer of petals, and a layer closest to the center. Each would get consecutively smaller. If you noticed the wildflowers had layers that rotate their space between petals between layers, show that in the flower you make. What colors were your flower? What kind of feeling do you want to express through color and form? Do you want to include a background with your flowers of the space you were in? Do you want to abstract the space and show your memory through color? Were there bugs around to add?

Step 4: Heavier items such as the egg carton pieces, sticks, bottle caps, or pipe cleaners may need to be glued with tacky or a glue gun. If it is a glue gun, make sure an adult performs the gluing for safety. The bottle caps make great centers for the flowers as well as making whole flowers from bottle caps. Be creative! You can also draw flowers, leaves and stems from observation into the collage and make your own flower as well. Magazine cutouts can match patterns and colors and bring cool designs to the elements. This can also be made into a card also!



Photo Credit: Dick van Duijn



BuggyandBuddy.com

Photo Credit: Buggy and Buddy



Photo Credit: Renmore School



MAKE-IT-YOUR-OWN.COM

Photo Credit: Kindercraze



Photo Credit: Garden Landscape Ideas



MAKE-IT-YOUR-OWN.COM

Photo Credit: Make It Your Own Way

Reflection: Talk about your experience. Were there any challenges? What flowers did you make? What do you enjoy about making collages? Did they turn out how you expected? What surprises happened? How would you do this differently? Did you make this into a card?

PART THREE - COFFEE FILTER FLOWERS

Want to make flowers with a simple at home? Coffee Filter Flowers are an easy and beautiful activity to make.

Resources/materials needed: Coffee filters, sticks or pipe cleaners, yarn, markers or watercolors, spray bottle, water, paintbrush, scissors

Skills: Cognitive, Motor, Hand-Eye Coordination, Sensory, Environmental Appreciation

DIRECTIONS:

Step 1: Color the coffee filters with washable markers or watercolor paint. Have your child really explore with color and create a memory of the flowers they observed in the outdoors. Babies and toddlers can take part too! All the scribbles are welcome!

After they are covered with marker color, bring out the spray bottle or a wet paint brush. Spray or spread around the paint brush with water. This will make the colors flow together like watercolor paint and makes a tie-dye look. Have the kids observe colors mixing together. Make at least 2 coffee filters per flower. The more coffee filters, the fuller the flower.

Step 2: Let dry completely before moving onto shaping the flower. After it is dry, you can cut the coffee filters into flower shapes.

Step 3: Take the dried coffee filter and fold in half 4 times. Now cut the edge to round it more. You can choose to make more of a pointed shape or waves on this step. It will result in a different shape of flower kind of like making snowflakes. After you are done cutting, open up the coffee filter. It should be a flower shape with folds. Feel free to cut the petals more to make a shape you want.

Step 4: Take each coffee filter you made and cut keep folding this way or experiment with multiple shapes. Cut



Photo Credit:Kindercraze



Photo Credit:KinderArt



Photo Credit:Buggy and Buddy

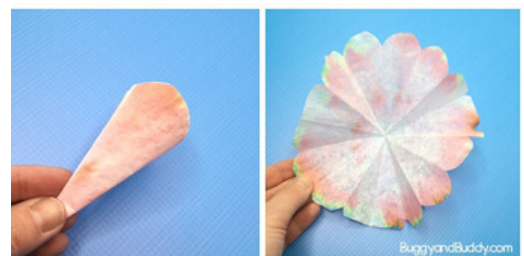


Photo Credit:Buggy and Buddy

them down so some are smaller in diameter so they can fit within each other.

Step 5: Once you have all your cut shapes made, fold them in half from petal to petal unless you made them from the folding the circle way. Making folds gives more volume to the flower once it is put together.

Step 6: Gather your sticks/pipe cleaners and set aside. Pile unfolded "petal layers" on top of each other. This should be 2-4 coffee filters.

Step 7: If you are using a pipe cleaner, poke a hole from the back center all the way through and poke it back through a new hole right beside it in the center. Use about 2 inches of pipe cleaner to do this. Twist to tie and secure. Bunch up the flower from the center and use tape or another pipe cleaner cut in half to secure flower shape and attach to the "stem".

Step 8: If you are using a stick or want to do the pictured version, bunch up the flower at the center and keep twisting to about 1.5" of a stem. Tape this together with clear tape or colored masking tape. Now you can tape that part of the flower to a stick to make a larger stem.

Step 9: Create all your flowers and if you have a enough make a bouquet and put in a vase or jar! You can give these to your mother for Mothers Day!

Reflection: Talk about your experience. Did your flowers turn out well? Which flower do you think your mother would like the best? Do these resemble the wildflowers you found in the outdoors? What do you like the most about making flowers? Would you like to make more with the same process? What would you do differently?



Photo Credit:First Palette

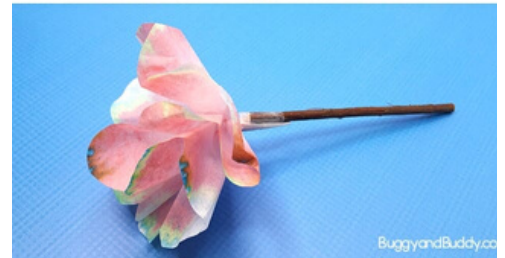


Photo Credit:Buggy and Buddy



Photo Credit:Raising Kinley

Resources:

make-it-your-own.com/paper-flower-garden/
kindercraze.blogspot.com
popsugar.com/pets/photos-squirrel-smelling-flowers-46594639
shareably.co/animals-sniffing-flowers/
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