

INSECT MINIBEAST ART

Symmetrical Butterfly Wings

Have children experiment with water colors or tempera paint. (Symmetry--discuss)

Give each child large white paper

Fold in half width-wise

Put globs of paint or water color on one side of the paper

Carefully fold over and have child press and smooth with their hand onto the clean side of the paper. The image is symmetrical and will often look like butterfly wings.

Encourage further activity at Arts Table Center.

Extension (Literature enrichment--tie back into Japan--haiku watercolors--have children again do haiku)

WAXED PAPER OR TISSUE PAPER BUTTERFLIES

These are beautiful if you display them on your windows or suspend them from the ceiling.

(I create a garden in the hallway of my classroom and all these things are suspended from the ceiling. If you can do something like this inside the classroom or in a hallway, it is a wonderful display of children's learning and also of creativity.)

MATERIALS NEEDED

1. Black construction paper cut by you in outline only of butterfly wings/body. The larger-the more beautiful.

2. Colored tissue paper in a broad assortment of colors.

3. Exacto-knife

4.. White glue

Assortment of tissue paper that the children can either cut or tear for "spots" and designs on the butterfly.

METHOD:

1. Trace outline with white chalk onto black construction paper. You must do this for the children. Do it at home.

2. Using an Exacto knife cut the outline out. These actually become "Stained Glass Butterflies". You can trace one butterfly outline onto one sheet of black construction paper, and with an Exacto knife cut 4-5 butterflies at one.

3. In class have children decide on tissue paper color for their butterfly wings. Symmetry--encourage but do not force.

4. Children will place tissue paper over wings, one at a time, glue it in place on the "outline" and trim to fit.

5. After each wing is done, encourage them to cut or tear assorted tissue paper bits in bright colors to design on their wings with white glue.

Add glitter if you have it....makes it gorgeous.

Suspend from ceiling or place on windows.

MAKE A DRAGONFLY

Make this as large as the balloon will allow you to and you can suspend it from the ceiling, etc,. It is terrific. If you use papier mache method to cover the balloon it will last years for you in your classroom and is a wonderful addition to the unit.

MATERIALS NEEDED

Large oblong balloon (neon green works terrific)
String or masking tape
Paper/liquid starch
Wire
Tissue paper
Pipe cleaners
Glue
Ping pong ball or styrofoam ball cut in half

METHOD:

1. Blow the balloon up. Not too tightly however.
2. Twist the balloon in three places to form parts of the body and tie with string or secure with masking tape.
3. Cover the balloon with papier-mache quick liquid starch method. You can omit this part if you use a neon-green balloon, as it will be a quick process to do in class without papier mache -but the papier makes a fantastic dragonfly when done.
4. Shape the wings out of thin wire and cover them with the tissue paper for translucency.
5. Carefully draw the veins and lines on the wings with marker. You made add irredescent glitter sprinkled here and there on the wings-- fantastic!
6. Use pipe cleaners for the legs--push on the underside of the wings into the thorax.
7. Cut a ping-pong ball or styrofoam ball in half--color them with a permanent marker and attach as eyes on the head.

GIANT LADY-BUG

The bigger the better; use papier mache method and it will last for years in the classroom. This is also good as an individual project (though it will take several days--perhaps a week in total for the entire class to complete.) Use smaller round balloons for individual projects. Children can invent their own minibeasts to suspend from the ceiling--a great atmosphere in the classroom. One large or small balloon when papier-mached will make two lady-bugs or two anything minibeasts.

MATERIALS NEEDED

Very large round balloon
Newspaper and liquid starch for quick papier mache method
Tempera or other liquid paint
Pipe cleaners

1. Blow up a round balloon. Secure it.
2. Cover with papier mache liquid starch-quick method. Let dry over night.
3. When dried in a day or two--carefully cut the papier mache balloon in half. You will now have the body for two insects, minibeasts or ladybugs. Cut this for the children as it does take not time but a little effort to get a clear cut.
4. Have children paint their ladybugs in bright warning colors or invent-a-minibeast.
5. If you have the time, encourage children to fold/cut brightly colored construction paper into various shapes or curl paper strips around a pencil to attach.
6. Masking tape for pipe cleaners to be secured as legs or antennae--can be inserted right through papier mache if you carefully punch a hole with a pencil in it first.

FLOWER CHILDREN!

These are great for your May festivals and for Gardening/Spring unit. Again, hang from ceiling in room or in your "Watch OUR Garden Grow " if you create a garden in your classroom and/or in a hallway of your school. I create my garden outside my room, a long hallway that when completed with Our Garden literally makes visitors and the rest of the school stop to walk through it. A wonderful display of children's learning and creativity.

MATERIALS NEEDED

Construction paper in a large assortment of spring colors

Large paper plates--9 inch size is PERFECT!

Glue

Have on hand an extra copy of the school photos for each child (the ones the photo people give us for such things)--small ones.

METHOD:

1. To save time because you will need lots and lots of petals....cut yourself large petals (about 8 inches long). You will need 200, 300 of these. So cut away at home one night.
2. Might as well cut stems in green for each Flower Child and a bunch of leaves out of green while you are at it. Make stems long-- about 15 inches long and about 3 inches wide--this is a Big Flower and needs a Big Stem!!

IN CLASS:

1. Have children glue petals to outside rim of paper plate. Encourage gently-- many will do it on their own --patterning with the petals. These flowers work best if the children glue the petals to the rim of the " un-indented" side of the paper plate
2. Once petals are glued on by children, have them attach the stem and add as many leaves to their flowers as they want.
3. In the center of the flower glue each child's picture to the flower they have created.

Hang in room from ceiling in your Spring Unit or in your Garden.

With all these crafts you can indeed create a Garden of Children's Creativity -
- add a new art work every week for the garden display and make a banner
to alert the rest of the school to "WATCH OUR GARDEN GROW!"
