



Theme: Plants (Grades K-2)

Post-Visit Activity #1 Garden Art!

Overview:

Once the students have grown the plants from pre-visit activity 2, they can clip (prune) leaves or flowers from the plants to create art. You may want to gather things from outside as well to add to the selection. Students can paint the leaves and flowers with tempura paint and place them on a piece of paper creating beautiful designs.

Objective:

- Students will understand that they can create artwork out of found objects in nature.

Materials:

- Tempura paint
- Flowers, leaves, or other material from nature
- Paper
- Brushes
- Cups filled with water
- Paper towel
- Newspaper to cover work areas
- Smocks or old shirts

Activity:

1. Divide students into their small groups.
2. Gather approximately twenty five plant pieces or other pieces found in nature such as grass, sand, rocks, etc.
3. Make sure their work area is protected with newspaper.
4. Have all the supplies at their work area.
5. Have one student come up and select five objects for their group.
6. They are to choose an object and paint one side of it and create an imprint on their paper.
7. They may use more than one object, and more than one color.
8. Sharing is very important in this activity.
9. Display their work throughout the classroom.

Suggested Reading List:

1. ***Counting in the Garden*** by Kim Parker. A colorful way to count to ten with pictures of creatures in the garden.
2. ***Good Morning, Garden*** by Barbara Brenner. A simplistic and tranquil greeting to each new day, celebrating nature with rhymes and beautiful illustrations.
3. ***In the Garden: Who's Been Here?*** by Lindsay Barrett George. Christina and Jeremy find evidence of many different animals as they gather vegetables in their garden.
4. ***Little Green*** by Keith Baker. A young boy watches a hummingbird travel from his window, appreciating the nature that he sees.
5. ***Mrs. Spitzer's Garden*** by Edith Pattou. Readers get an informative look at what plants need to grow as Mrs. Spitzer tends to her garden.
6. ***One Little Seed*** by Elaine Greenstein. A very simple look at the cycle of nature as one seed is planted and grown, and another seed is picked.
7. ***Planting a Rainbow*** by Lois Ehlert. A mother and child plant a garden with many different colors, creating a rainbow before their eyes.