



Art & Craft ideas – recycled art sea creatures, wonderful watercolors, and aquarium art

Recycled Art Sea Creatures!

Check <http://www.wla.lib.wi.us/yss/2009preconference.htm> for handouts with incredible ideas from Anne Horjus! You will find pictures of craft ideas, supply lists, and how-to instructions.

Wonderful Water Painting!

Young children learn new skills when given the opportunity to use watercolors. Many children may not get this chance at home. Children learn responsibility by being taught how to clean up after themselves, they learn eye/hand coordination, increase attention span, and when they are given the chance to combine a new idea with familiar ideas, they learn creative thinking ability. *Scratch and Sniff Watercolor*, This Preschool Craft Activity Requires:

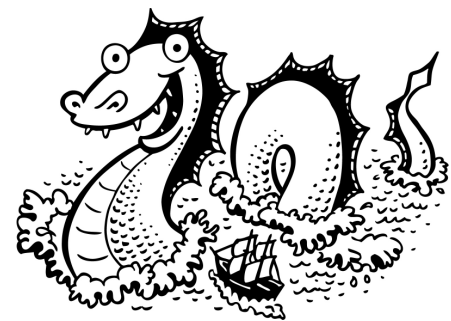
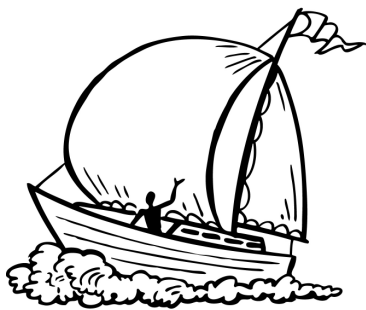
- Water Color Paints, Craft Glue, Fruit-Flavored Gelatin, Paper, Paintbrush
- 1) Place your paper on a sheet of newspaper. Use the watercolors to paint a picture. Let your painting dry.
 - 2) After your picture is dry, spread the craft glue over your fruit, or fish, flowers, etc in your painting. Sprinkle powdered, fruit-flavored gelatin over the wet craft glue.
 - 3) Let your picture dry. The craft glue will dry 'clear' and you will be left with a sweet-smelling picture!

Watercolors

All you need are several sets of water colors, water and paper. Cover the floor with large sheets of plastic if you are concerned about paint on the floor. Watch what happens when you offer children a variety of papers; don't forget coffee filters! Shape coffee filters into fish or an octopus. Create a mural with their paintings.

Sidewalk Art

Preschool children are happy with simple ideas when they're creating art. Purchase large inexpensive paint brushes, gather several buckets. Allow children to "paint" a sidewalk. The children can get as creative as they want, and the mess disappears when the water dries.



Create an Aquarium!

Collect recycled items such as styrofoam trays, clear plastic takeout trays, yarns, beads, bottle lids, twist-ties, yarn, string, ribbon, lace, brick-a-brack, colorful papers and foils, etc. Gather art supplies such as glue, glue dots, child safe scissors, plastic wrap, cellophane, paint, construction paper, etc.

Styrofoam Aquarium

Ocean life is full of fun shapes and colors. Create an aquarium by having children paint and decorate a clean styrofoam tray, such as from meat or donuts. Paint the tray then glue on fish, octopus, whale, shark or other sea creatures using found objects and art materials. Wrap a piece of clear plastic wrap or tinted cellophane around the tray to finish the aquarium.



Shoobox Aquarium

Have children create a sealife scene inside the bottom of a shoebox. Have an adult cut out the inside portion of the lid. Tape a piece of plastic wrap or cellophane inside the lid. Put the lid on the box and you have your aquarium. If children want to wrap the outside of the box, have them do that part first. Picture from <http://www.enchantedlearning.com/crafts/Oceandiorama.shtml>

Jello Aquarium

If you use food at your events, make a large Jello aquarium with blue Jello, clean seashells, and gummi fish. Give each child a small spoonful of Jello (use small plastic cups or Dixie cups) at the end of the event. You could also purchase the small individual Jello cups and have children add jelly beans or fish shaped treats (gummi fish or sharks) just before they eat the Jello.

Fish in a Bottle from http://www.ehow.com/way_5655652_fish-art-projects.html

Save 20 oz. water or soda bottles along with the tops, so you have one for each student. Using a marker, trace the shape of a fish on a disposable plastic plate. You can buy colored plastic plates and leave them plain, or you can use white plates and allow the kids to color them with permanent markers. Just make sure the marker is dry before you put it into the water. Fill the bottle half full with water. Fill the remainder of the bottle almost full with baby oil. Add about 10 drops of blue food coloring. You can add a little more if you want your water a little bluer. Put the lid on, and shake the bottle to mix the liquids. Roll up the cut out fish and insert it into the bottle. This works best if you buy plastic plates that are somewhat flexible.

Stained-Glass Fish from http://www.ehow.com/way_5655652_fish-art-projects.html

Tear up different colored sheets of tissue paper into pieces that are about 1 or 2 inches in size. They do not need to be perfect in shape, you can just tear them into pieces if you want. Lay these all out on the table so the children can choose what they want their own fish to look like. Give the children one square of contact paper. They can peel off the protective paper and place the torn pieces of tissue paper all over the page. Have some pictures of real fish available and encourage them to try to make their fish look like a real one.

You can also get glitter or some other sparkly decoration that the kids can put on their stained-glass fish. Make sure you supervise this part so they don't use too much glitter.

When they have finished putting tissue paper on one side of their contact paper, give them another piece to place on top. They can then draw or trace a fish shape and cut it out. They can punch a hole in the top of the fish and add a string so they can hang their stained-glass fish in a window.

Ocean Diorama from http://www.ehow.com/way_5655652_fish-art-projects.html

Collect a shoebox for each child. Have children cut out and color different fish shapes. They can draw scales on the fish and glue on wiggly eyes. They can make a whole ocean depending on how big their shoebox is. Punch holes in one side of the box, whichever side ends up being the top of the diorama, and hang the fish using string so they look like they are actually swimming in the ocean.

Wax Resist Fish Grade Level(s): K By: Rebecca, Kindergarten Teacher

Students make a color pattern fish that looks like it is swimming in the water.

<http://atozteacherstuff.com/pages/457.shtml>; 11/28/09

Materials:

- Hand-drawn fish outline reproducible, 3-4 different types of fish
- Wax crayons
- Watercolor paint
- Brushes, paint shirts etc.

Plan:

- 1) Usually around the time that we do this lesson we have been discussing and making patterns in mathematics.
- 2) Review with the children what a pattern is, i.e. that in this case we can't use just one color, but that we might want to do a 2 or 3 color pattern.
- 3) Discuss what this might look like, e.g. red-yellow-white, red-yellow-white. This gets them thinking about what type of pattern they could use.
- 4) Also reinforce the idea that patterns are continuing, and that they don't change halfway through the pattern.
- 5) Children color in their fish using a pattern of their choice. This is a rainbow fish, so the more colorful the better!
- 6) When the fish is completely colored in, they paint over it with the watercolor paint.
- 7) Now you have a fish that looks like it swimming through water!

Comments:

Link patterning with the types of colors that could be used to make rainbow fish. (I have some children in my class who believe that all black or brown is great for coloring in.) Although I've never done this, it would be possible to have the children glue a small piece of foil or some sequins to their fish after the paint has dried to make a "rainbow fish".

Resources

Ocean Art Activities: <http://www.fi.edu/fellows/fellow8/dec98/art.html>

Enchanted Learning: <http://www.enchantedlearning.com/crafts/ocean/>

Fish Lesson Plan Ideas:

<http://www.princetonol.com/groups/iad/Files/fish.htm>

<http://www.preschoollearningonline.com/preschoolfunactivitieskids.html>

Artist in Residence: <http://www.princetonol.com/groups/iad/Files/water.htm>

Wax Resist Fish: <http://www.atozteacherstuff.com/pages/457.shtml>

Paper Boat: http://www.mathematische-basteleien.de/paper_ship.htm

Fish Crafts: http://www.ehow.com/way_5655652_fish-art-projects.html



Much Ado About Summer Reading Program 2010

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