



Mixed Media 3D Flowers

Celebrate the colors of nature with a 3D floral creation. Students will explore texture and pattern in a decorative composition project.

Grade Level: 2-5

Objectives

Students will identify contrasting and complementary textures and patterns.

Students will explore how texture and pattern can be combined to create a cohesive composition.

Literature Selections

From Seed to Dandelion (Scholastic News Nonfiction Readers)
by Ellen Weiss

Skills

plant life cycles, fine motor skills

Set up and Prepare

Begin the lesson by introducing the book *From Seed to Dandelion*. Show the students the cover and ask them to predict what the story is about. Engage them in a discussion about how plants grow and create a KWL chart to record their comments. Read the story aloud and take time to share the wonderful illustrations. Revisit the KWL chart to add new information that students have discovered from the story.

Next, ask students to think of the colors, patterns, and textures they see in nature. Add their responses to the chart. Explain that they will explore the concepts of pattern and texture as they create a colorful dimensional representation of flowers.



Materials

Elmer's X-TREME™ School Glue, Elmer's Foam Board, fabric scraps, cardboard, ribbon, watercolor paints, needle and thread, buttons, gemstones, or other embellishments

Preparation

Cover the work space. Provide each student with a piece of foam board and a variety of fabric scraps and cardboard scraps they will use to create the flowers and pot.

Directions

Instruct students to select a few pieces of fabric they want to use for the flowers and the pot. Remind them to think about the composition of the piece and select colors and patterns that provide contrast and visual appeal.

Next, they will create the background for their compositions. Watercolor paint will produce a soft backdrop for the colorful flowers. To create additional texture, sprinkle a small amount of salt on the watercolor paint while it is still wet.

Place the foam board in a place where it will not be disturbed. While the background is drying, students can create the pot. Instruct them to sketch the trapezoid shape for the bottom of the pot and the rectangular shape for the lip on lightweight cardboard. After they cut the shapes out, they will cut a slightly larger piece of fabric to cover them. Choosing different patterns or colors of fabric will create even more dimension in the composition. Allow to dry completely.

Next, the students will create flowers to add to their composition. Instruct them to trace and cut circles of different sizes from the fabric. To create dimension, demonstrate the use of a needle and thread to sew a loose stitch along the entire edge. Pull the ends tightly together and tie them in a knot to gather the fabric in a flower shape.

When all of the pieces are completed, students may arrange and glue them to the foam board to create the finished composition. Add ribbon for the stems and buttons or gemstones to the center of the flowers.

