

hands-on lessons that

Pretty as a Peacock

Students will bring the science of chromatography to life as they create colorful peacocks to celebrate their learning about these beautiful birds.

Grade Level: K-2

Objectives

Students will identify the habitat, diet, and life span of the peacock.

Students will understand the science of chromatography as the separation of colors.

Literature Selections

A Peachick Grows Up by Katie Marsico

Three Hens and a Peacock by Lester Laminack

Just Plain Fancy by Patricia Polacco

Skills

life cycles, habitat, colors, fine motor skills

Set up and Prepare

Begin the lesson by reading *Three Hens and a Peacock* aloud to the students. Engage students in a discussion about the story. How do you think the peacock felt about the hens? How did the hens try to fix the peacock's problem? What do you think the author's message is? Allow the students to enjoy and discuss this humorous story and colorful illustrations. Next, read *A Peachick Grows Up* aloud to the students. This Scholastic News Nonfiction Reader provides essential information about the peacock's life cycle and the differences between the male and female birds. Explain to the students that they will be using a scientific process called chromatography



Materials

Elmer's® School Glue, Elmer's® Disappearing Purple Glue Sticks, white coffee filters, water-based markers, construction paper, scissors, jiggly eyes, spray bottle with water (feathers, glitter glue and other embellishments are optional)

Preparation

Provide each student with two or three coffee filters and markers. Since this activity involves spraying the project with water, it is helpful to set up a separate place with paper towels and water bottles so the entire work area doesn't get wet.

Directions

Instruct students to draw colored circles on the coffee filters. Encourage them to experiment with different combinations of colors.

To observe the chromatography process, spray the coffee filters lightly with water. Students will take great delight in watching the colors separate slowly. Provide time for them to explore the chromatography process in each one.

Leave the coffee filters in a place where they will dry. While the filters are drying, provide students with construction paper and scissors so they can create the body, beak, and feet. You may create a template for the body or let the students draw their own.

Students can select the filter they like the best or create several peacocks if time permits.



Once the filters are dry, glue the body, beak and feet to create the peacock. You may use glitter glue or feathers to embellish them further.

Lesson Extensions

Write a story about the peacock. What is the peacock's name? Where does he live? What does he eat? What exciting adventures does the peacock experience? Instruct students to include information about habitat, diet, life cycle, etc. in the story.

Compare hens and peacocks using a Venn diagram. How are they alike? How are they different?

Read *Just Plain Fancy* by Patricia Polacco aloud to the students. Compare and contrast Polacco's story with Laminack's story. How do the messages differ? How are the illustrations different?

Transform the peacocks into puppets by gluing a paint stick to the back. Once dry, instruct the students to write and perform a peacock puppet show.