

## Botanical Brushstrokes with Olivia

### Description:

This workshop series will explore a fusion of creating an artistic container for a plant + learning some simple plant cultivation skills!

### Topics

Art on terracotta (acrylic paint + paint markers + terracotta pots)

Plant cultivation (soil + seeds or seedling starters/succulents)

### Series Outline:

1. \*\*Week 1: “Plant characters” (Terracotta pot art)
2. \*\*Week 2: Intro to Plants + Plant Cultivation
3. \*\*Week 3: Combine EARTH with ART= EARTH= bring the terracotta art to life by watering your seeds and taking home to grow or choosing provided succulents/plant starts to represent the “hair” of your plant character.

### Lesson Plans:

#### Lesson Plan #1: “Plant characters” (Terracotta pot art)

1. Introduction to Plants (5 minutes)
  - Begin with a brief explanation of plants, and their importance in our environment
  - Ice Breaker: What is your favorite plant?
  - Discuss and show different types of plants, noting difference in colors, shapes, textures, etc.
2. Designing Plant Characters (10 minutes)
  - Encourage kids to brainstorm different plant characters using their imagination.
  - Help them sketch a simple plant character that they will paint on their terracotta pot.
3. Art on Terracotta (35 minutes)

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- Provide terracotta pots for each child.
  - Instruct children to paint their designed plant characters onto the terracotta pots using paints and brushes.
  - Walk around to assist and provide encouragement and suggestions.
4. Sharing and Clean-Up (5 minutes)
- Allow time for children to share their terracotta creations with the class.
  - Guide a quick clean-up of materials and work area.

## Lesson Plan #2: Intro to Plant Cultivation

1. Introduction to Plant Cultivation (5 minutes)
- Begin with a brief explanation of the elements we need to cultivate a plant
  - Reflection: What is your favorite plant?
2. Plants are also unique like us (10 minutes)
- Discuss how different plants require different amounts of the elements to thrive (based on the seeds provided)
  - Allow them to choose from a variety of seeds
3. Maintenance (25 minutes)
- As a group: fill a community tray with soil, plant seed, and water
  - show olla water irrigation for maintenance
4. Sharing and Clean-Up (5 minutes)
- Allow time for children to share their terracotta creations with the class.
  - Guide a quick clean-up of materials and work area.

## Lesson Plan #3: Soil + Irrigation + Maintenance

Combine EARTH with ART = **EARTH**

1. Introduction to Terracotta and Plants (10 minutes)
- Begin with a brief explanation of terracotta, its uses, and importance in botany..
2. Finishing touches on Plant Characters (10 minutes)
- Show a variety of different seedling starters and/or succulents. Encourage kids to visualize which plant they want to bring their plant character to life.
  - Give the plant a name and think of a story to tell about

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## 3. Art on Terracotta (30 minutes)

- Provide terracotta pots for each child.
- Instruct children on how to transfer the seedlings into their pots.
  - Ask students to give the plant a name and think of a story to tell about their character.
  - Walk around to assist and provide encouragement and suggestions.

## 4. Storytime (10 minutes)

- Allow students to share their plant character and stories
- Explain how to care for their plant, including sunlight and water needs.

## 5. Sharing and Clean-Up (5 minutes)

- Guide a quick clean-up of materials and work area.

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## Additional Ideas

### 1. Introduction to Terracotta and Plants (10 minutes)

- Begin with a brief explanation of terracotta, its uses, and importance in botany.
- Discuss different types of plants and seeds, and how they can be featured in art.

### 2. Designing Plant Characters (10 minutes)

- Encourage kids to brainstorm different plant characters using their imagination.
- Help them sketch a simple plant character that they will paint on their terracotta pot.

### 3. Art on Terracotta (25 minutes)

- Provide terracotta pots for each child.
- Instruct children to paint their designed plant characters onto the terracotta pots using paints and brushes.
- Walk around to assist and provide encouragement and suggestions.

### 4. Planting Seeds (10 minutes)

- Once the paint on the pots has dried, help children plant seeds into their painted pots.
- Explain how to care for their plant, including sunlight and water needs.

### 5. Sharing and Clean-Up (5 minutes)

- Allow time for children to share their terracotta creations with the class.

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- Guide a quick clean-up of materials and work area.

## Materials List

- Terracotta pots (one per student)
- Acrylic paint
- Paintbrushes
- Pencils for sketching
- Variety of seeds (safe for indoor planting)
- Potting soil
- Paper towels
- Aprons or smocks

## Adaptations for Different Ages

- Younger kids: Pre-sketch simple designs on pots for them and use larger brushes for painting.
- Older kids: Introduce more complex design techniques, such as shading or creating patterns.

## Movement Break

- Nature-inspired dance: Play some music and have the children move like the growth of a plant, starting from a seed sprouting up into a full plant.

## Bonus Activities

- Create a mini plant journal: Have older children write about their planted seeds and predict growth stages.
- Storytime: Read a short story about plants or nature to inspire creativity before beginning the art project.

## Series Outline

**\*\*Week 1: Introduction to Botanical Art\*\***

- Explore famous botanical artists and their work.

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- Discuss the relationship between art and nature.
- Create simple sketch journals for capturing plant observations.

## **\*\*Week 2: Art on Terracotta\*\***

- Learn about terracotta as an art medium and its historical significance.
- Paint small terracotta pots using plant-inspired designs.
- Visit a pottery studio (if possible) to observe the crafting of terracotta items.

## **\*\*Week 3: Understanding Plants\*\***

- Study basic plant anatomy and identify plant parts through drawing.
- Host a nature walk to collect leaves and flowers for sketching.
- Start a plant diary to document growth and changes.

## **\*\*Week 4: Seeds and Growth\*\***

- Discuss the life cycle of plants, focusing on seeds.
- Create seed collages using different types of seeds.
- Plant seeds in the painted terracotta pots from Week 2.

## **\*\*Week 5: Art + Plants Integration\*\***

- Explore how plants can be incorporated into art, such as leaf prints.
- Conduct a leaf-rubbing activity to capture textures.
- Design plant-tinted natural dyes/paints using plant materials.

## **\*\*Week 6: Plant Characters\*\***

- Encourage creativity by designing plant-based characters or imaginary creatures.
- Start a storybook featuring these plant characters.
- Use clay to create 3D models of their plant characters.

## **\*\*Week 7: Nature's Patterns\*\***

- Investigate natural patterns like spirals, symmetry, and fractals in plants.
- Practice drawing these patterns and incorporate them into artworks.
- Make a group mural featuring nature-inspired patterns.

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## **\*\*Week 8: Botanical Textures\*\***

- Use different art supplies to replicate plant textures (e.g., bark, petals).
- Create texture cards using various materials like sand, leaves, and bark.
- Experiment with embossing techniques on paper and clay.

## **\*\*Week 9: Nature in Impressionism\*\***

- Discuss impressionism and how artists like Monet captured nature.
- Paint landscapes or nature scenes in an impressionist style.
- Visit a local garden or park to paint outdoors if possible (plein air painting).

## **\*\*Week 10: Exhibition and Reflection\*\***

- Organize an exhibition showcasing the students' best work from the series.
- Encourage students to share what they learned and enjoyed the most.
- Create a collaborative piece summarizing the Botanical Brushstrokes experience.

For additional support, reference this [experience outline template](#) which includes tips and prompts to help you develop and lead an excellent Grasshopper Kids experience.

*Note: This lesson plan outline was drafted by Hopper. If you would like to see different results, you can [submit another idea](#), or text us with feedback so we can work to make the algorithm better. We built this tool to help save you time in bringing more kids enrichment experience ideas to life!*

