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EcoCrafters with Bj

Instructions:

Check out this sample lesson plan and activity ideas for inspiration, ideas, and more. Feel free to edit, delete, or highlight to make it your own! These notes are yours to customize. They will not be published anywhere such that you're held to teaching exactly what's here.

Topics

Nature inspired art, simple materials found outside, recyclables,

Lesson Ideas

Lesson Title

EcoCrafters: Nature Inspired Art

Duration

1 Hour

Lesson Plan

1. Introduction to Nature Art (10 minutes)

- Discuss the concept of nature-inspired art and its importance.
- Show examples of art made with natural materials, such as rock paintings or leaf collages.

2. Nature Walk and Material Collection (15 minutes)

- Lead the kids on a brief nature walk around the schoolyard or local park to collect simple natural materials like leaves, twigs, stones, and flowers.

3. Sorting and Prepping Materials (5 minutes)

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- Return to the classroom and sort collected materials by type.
- Introduce recyclables like cardboard pieces, paper, and small containers for use in projects.

4. Creative Time: Making Nature Art (20 minutes)

- Provide guidance as kids create their nature-inspired art piece using both natural materials and recyclables.
- Encourage creativity, such as making leaf print patterns, twig sculptures, or rock animals.

5. Art Gallery Walk and Sharing (5 minutes)

- Arrange finished pieces and allow a gallery walk.
- Let kids present their artwork and share what inspired their creation.

6. Reflection and Clean-Up (5 minutes)

- Discuss what the kids learned about nature and recyclables through art.
- Guide kids in cleaning up their work area, reinforcing the importance of respecting nature.

Materials List

- Collected natural items (leaves, twigs, stones, flowers)
- Recycled paper, cardboard, and small containers
- Scissors, glue, and non-toxic paint
- Brushes and water cups
- Markers and crayons

Adaptations for Different Ages

- Younger Children: Focus on simpler art projects like leaf rubbings or collage-making.
- Older Children: Challenge them with more intricate designs or small sculptures using twigs and stones.

Movement Break

- Nature Scavenger Hunt (5 minutes)
 - A short burst of energy between activities: Kids find items that match a list of descriptions (e.g., "Find a round stone" or "Find a green leaf").

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Bonus Activities

- Nature-inspired Storytime: Read a story or show a video about artists who use nature in their work.
- Create a Suncatcher: Use pressed flowers and leaves on contact paper to make suncatchers for classroom windows.
- Nature Journaling: Provide small notebooks for kids to sketch or describe their favorite nature finds.

Series Outline

Week 1: Introduction to EcoCrafters

- Discuss the importance of eco-friendly crafting.
- Create a group "Eco Crafters" pledge to use sustainable practices.
- Go on a nature walk to collect simple materials like twigs, leaves, and stones.

Week 2: Nature-Inspired Art

- Paint with natural materials like leaves and twigs.
- Create nature rubbings using crayons and textured objects found outside.
- Make mandalas using found objects arranged in patterns.

Week 3: Crafting with Leaves and Flowers

- Press flowers and leaves to use in art projects.
- Create leaf crowns and flower bracelets.
- Design leaf prints on paper or fabric using paint.

Week 4: Stone and Rock Creations

- Paint small stones to make garden markers or pet rocks.
- Assemble rock sculptures or cairns.
- Create story stones with painted images for storytelling games.

Week 5: Twig and Branch Art

- Build small twig sculptures or mini-craft frames.
- Make natural mobiles by hanging twigs from a branch with twine.
- Craft mini-raft boats to float in water play areas.

Week 6: Recyclable Creations

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- Use cereal boxes and cartons to make 3D art pieces.
- Design bird feeders using plastic bottles or milk jugs.
- Construct musical instruments like shakers using cans and bottles.

Week 7: Plant-Based Dyes and Textiles

- Dye fabric using plant-based pigments from items like beet juice or turmeric.
- Create tie-dye patterns with rubber bands and plant dyes.
- Weave small items with grass or plant stems.

Week 8: Eco-Friendly Gift Making

- Craft eco-friendly wrapping paper using recycled paper and natural dyes.
- Design homemade seed paper cards and gifts.
- Create personalized bookmarks using recycled materials.

Week 9: Upcycled Container Gardens

- Use old cans or containers as planters.
- Plant small herb gardens in recycled containers.
- Design and decorate plant markers made from popsicle sticks or old cutlery.

Week 10: EcoCrafters Showcase

- Organize an exhibition of all projects created during the course.
- Encourage kids to present one eco-friendly craft and explain its materials and process.
- Reflect on the importance of sustainable crafting and commit to future projects.

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!

