



Nature Imprint Activity

Goal:

I can find three natural objects outside in my surroundings that I can use to imprint in clay to create a necklace, ornament, or other art creation.

Materials:

- Air Dry Clay
- items from nature
- straw
- string
- watercolor paints
- brown paper bag
- cookie cutters
- plastic knives
- popsicle sticks

Activity:

After studying plants, animals, habitats, etc. students will go outside and locate 3 natural objects that give themselves happiness so they can imprint them into clay. The students will be encouraged to choose objects that are not living and will not cause harm if taken from the area. They will be given a brown paper bag to collect their objects.

The students will bring their objects into the classroom where they will be given clay. The student will choose which shape to make the clay for the platform of the imprint. They may use cookie cutters, plastic knives, popsicle sticks, or other tools to create the shapes. Then they will use their natural objects to make an imprint into the clay. If they want to make their imprints into necklaces, ornaments, or other objects with a string they will need to make a small hole in the clay for the string. To do this they will use a straw. Make sure to not make the hole too close to the edge of the shape.

The clay will need to air dry for several days making sure to flip it over after several hours.

Students may want to use watercolor paints to highlight the lines that were imprinted into the clay after the clay has dried for several days.

After students imprint their natural objects, have each child describe their imprints using some of the vocabulary words from their unit.

Why did you choose the natural object? What about it made you happy? Did the imprint work as you had hoped? Why or why not?



Homemade Air-Dry Clay Recipe

Ingredients

- 2 cups baking soda
- 1 cup cornstarch plus more for kneading
- 1 ½ cups water

Instructions

1. In a small pot, mix together the baking soda and cornstarch. Stir in the water until completely blended.
2. Place pot over medium heat and cook, stirring constantly for 10 to 15 minutes until the clay begins to form. Remove from heat and continue stirring until the mixture becomes a sticky but soft dough.
3. Allow the dough to cool to the touch.
4. Place dough on a surface coated with additional cornstarch. Begin kneading the clay adding more cornstarch as needed until the clay becomes smooth and the tacky feeling is gone.
5. To store, wrap tightly in plastic wrap and place in an airtight container.
6. To dry, place shapes on a drying rack. If needed, flip shapes over after one side has dried. Depending on the thickness of the object, the clay may take up to 3 days to dry completely.

<https://myheavenlyrecipes.com/how-to-make-homemade-air-dry-clay/>

