

"Plant Imprints"



National Standards

- Develop abilities necessary to do scientific inquiry and understand scientific inquiry. (NS.K-4.1)
- Develop an understanding of properties of earth materials. (NS.K-4.4)

Objectives

Students learn:

- Hand-eye coordination
- Tactile awareness
- Various leaf or flower shapes
- Fine motor skills
- Veins of leaves and details on flowers

Time Frame

Day 1

30 min.

Time Frame

Day 2

30 min.

Teacher Preparation

- Find leaves and flowers or assign students to bring.
- Make a sample to determine the amount of clay needed to fill a margarine lid.
- Place pieces of masking tape on printed side of margarine lids for students to print their names.
- Set out several water containers for students to share.
- Tape a piece of waxed paper at each student's work area.
- Open clay packages and use knife to divide clay block into thirds, 1/3 for each student. Keep clay in plastic bags until ready to use. If clay starts to dry, simply add damp paper towels to bag to moisten.

See Photo A



Materials

Dixon® Prang® Materials

- DAS® White Air Hardening Modeling Clay
1/3 of a 17.6 oz. pkg.
per student
- Washable Water Colors
- Paint Brushes
- Dixon® Pencils

Other Materials

- Real leaves or flowers
- Plastic margarine tub lid (approx. 5" diameter),
1 per student
- 8" length of 1" diameter dowel
1 per 2 students
- Waxed paper
- Masking tape
- Table knife
- Plastic bags
- Containers for water
- Paper towels
- Access to sink

WHY use Prang® DAS® Clay & Watercolors?

Unlike inconvenient, oven-baked clay & messy dough, DAS® Clay is smooth, easy to use, captures intricate detail & air dries to a durable hardness. Prang® Watercolors are washable from hands & clothing while providing thick, rich colors. Both are AP certified non-toxic.

Professor Prang

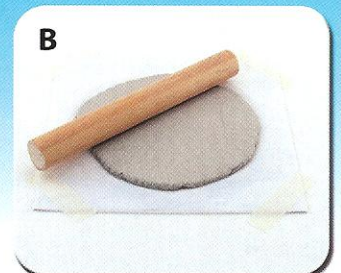


Directions

Review plant unit information with students. Discuss how clay will capture the shape of various plants as well as the details such as veins and textures of flower centers.

1. Have students use pencil to write names on tape on lids. Distribute pieces of clay to students. Ask them to form a ball by rolling clay between their palms. Have students place ball of clay on center of waxed paper and use a dowel to roll clay into 1/4" thick sheets.

See Photo B



2. With name tape up, have each student center plastic lid onto clay. Ask them to carefully press lids down into clay as they would cookie cutters. Remove excess clay from around edges of lids. Caution students not to remove clay from lids. Explain that clay will be left in lids until project is totally completed.

See Photo C

3. Have students turn over lids and use fingers to smooth clay along edges of the lids. Students can dampen fingers in water and smooth clay.

See Photo D

4. Instruct students to center a leaf (with back side down) or flower (with front side down) on top of clay in lids. Have them press leaf or flower firmly, pushing straight down without shifting, to leave impression. Then very carefully have students remove leaf or flower.

See Photo E

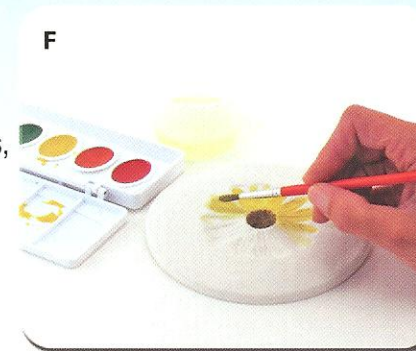
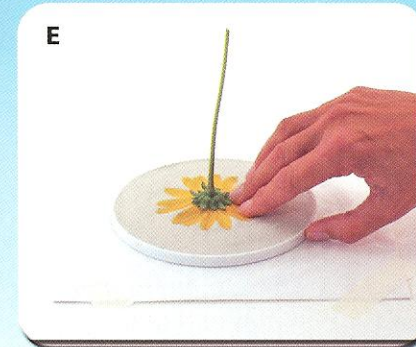
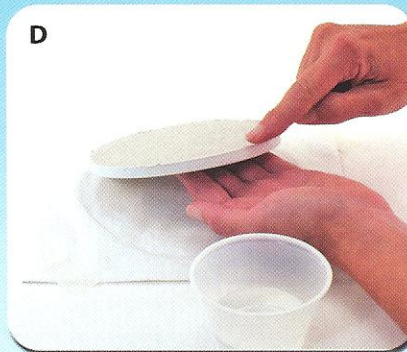
5. Set aside lids with clay inside to dry.

Next Session...

6. The next day, when clay is fairly dry on top, have each student paint the impression area with one color of water color and if desired, have them paint the area around the impression with another color. (Note: For paint to help show details of the impressions, allow it to settle into the deepest parts of the impressions.) Set aside to dry.

See Photo F

7. After several days, have students carefully and very slowly peel back the lid from the clay. Have students remove tape from lid and place on bottom of clay.



Modifications

- Have clay already in the lids and the students make the impressions and paint.
- Have clay impressions already made and students paint.
- Use plastic knife to cut around impression of leaf or flower.
- Make two sided plant shapes by pressing the other side of the leaf or flower into the clay, let dry and glue back to back.
- Mount painted impressions on posterboard or wooden plaques.

Additional Ideas

- Make holes in circles or cut-out shapes to hang as decorations.
- Use plastic storage container lid to make a panel with multiple leaf or flower impressions.
- Use smaller lids to make mini leaf and flower impression to use as magnets.

Safety Tips

- Have children use only plastic knives - no metal ones.

References

- *I Am a Leaf* by Jean Marzollo
- *Red Leaf, Yellow Leaf* by Lois Ehlert
- *The Tree* by Gallimard Jeunesse and Pascale deBourgoing
- *All About Trees* by Jane Dickinson

Attention Teachers

If you have a great lesson plan, submit it to Dixon® for publication consideration. If chosen, you'll receive \$50 in Prang® Products! Send us your best! Mail to address at right. Please include: Dept. Professor Prang®!
Thanks!

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