Art Projects and Activities for the Mentally Retarded.

Buffalo Public Schools, N.Y.

69 60p.

EDRS Price MP-$0.50 HC-$3.10


Forty-two art activities are suggested for use with mentally handicapped children. These include miscellaneous activities as well as activities appropriate to the four seasons of the year. For each activity, materials, instructional level, procedure, and variations are specified. In addition, display ideas are presented and recipes given for making materials such as finger paints and the like. (JD)
ART

PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES
FOR THE
MENTALLY RETARDED

BUFFALO PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BUFFALO, NEW YORK
DIVISION OF CURRICULUM EVALUATION AND DEVELOPMENT
1969
FOREWORD

The Buffalo Public Schools have long recognized the needs of the mentally retarded child. In every area of the curriculum, special programs, painstakingly devised and carefully implemented, are reaching this special youngster.

This guide, *Art Activities for the Mentally Retarded*, marks an extension of an already effective program. The activities suggested in this guide will enable the art teacher or the regular classroom teacher of the mentally retarded, to develop more fully the child's awareness of the world in which he lives. It is hoped that the encouragement of creative expression and the wise guidance of the teacher will allow the mentally retarded child to achieve a satisfying maturity and a reasonable degree of independence.

I want to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to Dr. Alice Brown, Director of Education for the Mentally Retarded and other staff members who have worked unselishly in the creation of this guide. Their efforts should do much to maintain the high quality of this special program.

Joseph Manch
Superintendent of Schools
INTRODUCTION

The art activities presented in this guide were developed to give some basic guidelines to teachers working with mentally retarded children. It is designed to be used by the art teacher or regular classroom teacher of the retarded. All ideas involved have been tried with success in actual special classroom situations.

In working with the retarded child, it must be remembered that his fundamental educational needs are the same as those of other children. Through the use of art media, many of these needs may be recognized and fulfilled in an enjoyable learning situation. The most important thing to remember in dealing with the retarded child is that at all times the experience is more important than the result. Success should be judged in terms of the child's own ability. Since success for the retarded child is extremely important, frustration should be kept to a minimum.

It is important for the retarded child to develop the fullest possible use of all of his senses. Through art activities, the child grows in perceptual sensitivity as he sees, uses and organizes visual material. His sense of touch is also stimulated as he handles the various art media.

Art can also be an important source for stabilizing the child's emotional well-being. As the child becomes engrossed in manipulating various art media, pent up frustration will begin to dwindle.

The retarded child, who lacks a true sense of identity, often finds art to be an excellent means of developing his personality. Unique, internalized, individual feelings can be expressed through art. It must be remembered, however, that the creative process in the retarded child may be somewhat slower than that of the average child. For this reason, more structure should be given to the art lesson presented to him than to that given to the normal child.
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Materials

pieces of crayons
newsprint or thin paper
leaves

Instructional Level

Any level

Procedure

Place paper over leaf. Try to hold paper so that leaf does not move. A small piece of "Hold it" will secure the leaves but may show in the rubbings.

Rub with side of crayon, holding crayon flat on paper. Use a firm, downward pressure, working toward the center from the outside edges.

Many colors may be used over each other. Black sharpens the edges.

Leaves may be cut out and mounted after bright colors are used on rubbings.

Variations

This process may be used with torn or cut abstract forms. Hearts and egg shapes with designs or spaces cut out make an interesting seasonal approach.

Use fabric, as a variation, after the process is familiar.
TREES

Materials

- crayons, paint or markers
- paper

Instructional Level

- Any level

Procedure

Draw two lines of any size and any width.

Fill in the lines and from them pull out two more lines in the shape of a Y.

From these new lines, repeat and continue pulling out to give a feeling of growth, until the top of the paper is reached or very small branches are achieved.

Start at one side of tree and draw two lines on each branch until the other side is reached.

Go back to original side and repeat.

The lines may be bent or smooth and of any length.
SPONGE PAINTED TREES

Materials
sponges - cut about 1" x 2" or larger
poster paint
manila paper, 9" x 12" or larger
scrap paper
crayons

Instructional Level
Any level

Procedure
Draw a tree on the manila paper using the Y or V method.

Soak sponges ahead of time and squeeze out moisture.

Place a small amount of poster paint on scrap paper. Bright colors for autumn trees or green or blossom colors for spring may be used.

Hold sponge on long side. Dip in paint and tap out on scrap paper until fairly dry and paper shows through the paint.

Scatter with pouncing, tapping method over branches and beyond for foliage.
PUMPKIN HEAD MOBILES

Materials

2 strips 2" x 18" construction paper
several strips of 1 1/2" and 1" in width,
any length, construction paper or
scraps
1 piece construction paper 3" x 4 1/2"
paste
scissors
thread
stapler

Procedure

Make 2" x 18" strips into rings and paste
one inside the other for body.

Cut two eyes from 1" strip. These may be
any shape. Rings may be made from smaller
strip for iris of eye. Paste eyes onto
ball.

Cut two eyebrows and add to face.

Make nose from 1" strip 6" or 7" long.
Nose may be cut, folded, or made into a
ring. Paste on head.

Fold 3" x 4 1/2" paper and cut outline of
mouth. Push up fold as mouth is pasted
on.

Strips fringed, curled over pencil or made
into rings may be added for hair. These
may be pasted or stapled on head.

Add thread through top of head for hanging.

Instructional Level

Primary or Intermediate
**Materials**

- scissors
- paste
- green kindergarten weaving sticks
- spool wire or pipe cleaners
- 1 green crepe paper 10" x 3"
- 1 white or yellow crepe paper 10" x 18"
  (make sure the grain of paper runs in the 10" direction)

**Instructional Level**

Jr. High

**Procedure**

Fold white crepe paper two or three times; then double it over.

Cut deep, narrow slashes along both edges.

Unfold. Refold entire strip in half with the slashes at the top and bottom. Starting at one end, roll strip up and tie with spool wire or pipe cleaner in the middle.

Bend the bottom strips up towards the looped strips to form a full pompon. Curl single petals with scissors.

Put paste on the tip of weaving stick and poke into bottom of flower.

Fold green crepe paper in half. Fold from left to right.

Make outline of leaf on green paper using single fold for center of leaf. Cut around outline. This will make two leaves.

Paste a piece of wire down the center of the leaf allowing some to hang over for winding.

Let dry and wind around stick. Bend leaves into shape.

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**Wire**
CONSTRUCTION PAPER TURKEY

Materials
1 piece 9" x 12" construction paper
1 brown construction paper circle 4" in diameter
1 brown construction paper circle 5" in diameter
1 piece brown construction paper 5" x 2", cut in a leaf shape
crayons
paste
chalk

Instructional Level
Trainable

Procedure

Mark on 4" circle, in a circular design, with brown, black and white crayon or chalk. This makes the turkey body.

Draw lines and semi-circles on circle 5" in diameter with colored crayons and chalk to give the illusion of feathers. This becomes the tail of the turkey.

Paste tail section about 1" under body section.

Paste tail and body sections to 9" x 12" paper with body up about 1/4" from lower edge of paper. Apply paste only to the center of the back of the body, allowing the edges to be free.

Draw lines on leaf shaped piece with brown, black and white crayon or chalk to represent the wing feathers.

Paste wing to body with point toward lower corner and wide end of wing in center of body.

Draw head of turkey with red crayon, extending the head under the body.

Add eye and beak to head with black crayon.

Using black crayon, add feet extending them under body.

Add grass to picture.
TURKEY STABLE

Materials

3 strips construction paper $1\frac{3}{4}$" x 12"
1 strip red construction paper $1\frac{3}{4}$" x 9"
1 piece black or yellow construction paper $\frac{1}{2}$" x 2"
several pieces of various colors 6" x 7\frac{1}{2}"
(these pieces are for the tail and thinner paper is good for this)
paste
scissors
stapler

Procedure

Make two $1\frac{3}{4}$" x 12" strips into rings and paste one inside the other for body.

Hold third strip in center and curl over closed scissors in a U curve to make wings. Paste onto body following along one ring.

Make an uneven U curve from the red, $1\frac{3}{4}$" x 9" construction paper. Paste and hold onto front ring of body until set.

Fold $\frac{1}{2}$" x 2" paper in half and cut into a point by starting at the fold. Paste on head.

Staple or paste body onto 4" x 4" cardboard.

With at least three pieces of 6" x 7\frac{1}{2}" construction paper on top of each other, cut paper on slant or curve. Slash more than half way toward the small end. Curl wide end over pencil or closed scissors.

Paste tail to turkey body, one piece at a time.

Instructional Level

Primary or Intermediate
SALT CERAMIC AND PAPER TURKEYS

Materials

½ red pipe cleaner
small piece of salt ceramic
(see recipes)
2” x 3” mounting board
1 yellow construction paper 1” x 1½”
1 black construction paper ¾” x 1½”
2 white construction paper 2” x 2”
2 white construction paper 2½” x 3”

Procedure

Cut all pieces before shaping ball for body.

Fold in half 1” x 1½” yellow construction paper and cut as shown in illustration at right.

Fold ¾” x 1½” black construction paper in half and cut for bill.

Fold one white 2” square in half and cut for wings. Fringe one end of wings about half way.

Take three remaining papers and cut each into fan shape to make tail. Cut into wide end more than half way down to make feathers. Curl ends over pencil or scissors.

Twist middle of pipe cleaner over pencil and wind ends together. Remove pencil and bend wound end.

Paste black bill over loop in pipe cleaner.

Make ball from soft ceramic and push down on 2” x 3” card. Push pipe cleaner neck and paper tail sections into clay. Push tip of uncut wings into clay and bend over. As turkey body hardens, wings and tail will adhere. It takes about 48 hours to entirely harden.
Crayon Batik or Crayon Resist

Materials
white or manila drawing paper, any size
very thin poster paint - black or any dark color
wide brush

Instructional Level
Primary or Intermediate

Procedure
Color picture heavily with crayons, leaving much background area uncolored. This is especially interesting to children, when white crayons are available, to make a snow scene. Dots of white are made on white paper. Be sure to color all snow with white, i.e. snow on ground, roof, trees, etc.

Paint over entire paper with black or other dark color. Blue is effective with snow pictures. The crayon will resist the paint and the design will show through the paint.
CONE AND CREPE PAPER TREE

Materials

1 green construction paper 6″ x 12″
1 brown construction paper 4 1/2″ x 7″
1 piece 3″ x 3″ construction paper, any color
1 piece 3 1/4″ x 3 1/4″ construction paper, any color
1 piece 4″ x 4″ heavy cardboard
1 piece crepe paper 4″ x 1 1/4″, any color

paste
scissors

Procedure

Roll long edge of brown construction paper as tightly as possible. Run paste along the edge and rub till shiny. Hold till paste starts to set.

Trace around bottom of roll on 3″ x 3″ paper to make a circle. Cut circle out. Slip top of roll through circle. Make slits on one end of roll.

Put paste on tabs of roll and paste to bottom of 3″ x 3″ paper. Cover entire bottom of 3″ x 3″ paper with paste and attach to 3 1/4″ x 3 1/4″ paper. Paste bottom of 3 1/4″ x 3 1/4″ paper to center of cardboard. Set aside to dry.

Round bottom of 6″ x 12″ green paper into a half-circle.

Work paper into a cone shape by bringing the two corners of the straight edge together, making sure you get the top point as close together as possible.

Paste along edges, rub paste till shiny and press to hold.

Fold 4″ crepe paper in half and continue refolding until paper is about 4″ long. Cut along one edge.

Starting at bottom of tree, wind crepe paper around tree by pasting crepe paper at intervals and pressing to tree. Continue
Cone and Crepe Paper Tree

winding crepe paper and overlapping a little until the top of tree is reached.

Now slit tabs at top end of roll, paste, and stick into top of tree.

Note: This activity works better if done in two stages, thus allowing time for paste to dry.
MUFFIN CUP ORNAMENT

Materials

2 muffin cups
2 gummed stars
2 11" x 11" squares green or red
construction paper
2 1" x 1" squares green or red
construction paper
string
scissors
paste

Instructional Level
Trainable

Procedure

Place muffin cups inside of each other and
fringe fluted side to bottom.

Loop string and paste ends on center section.

Paste second cup over string and center
section.

Paste 11" square in middle of each side.

Paste 1" square in center of 11" square
on each side.

Glue star on each 1" square.
EGG CARTON ORNAMENTS

Materials

- six sided sections of egg carton (where eggs sit)
- Elmer's or white glue
- string
- paint and brushes
- shellac or clear spray
- glitter

Instructional Level

- Primary or Intermediate

Procedure

Form string into a loop and glue to one pointed side.

Cover one pointed side completely with glue. Press the second side tightly into place and hold.

Repeat with two more.

If diagram 2 is to be used, repeat a third time.

By gluing two sections at a time, the sections have a chance to set before gluing together in a ring.

Diagram 1 has four sections glued together in a circle with two added inside to form a solid star.

Match triangular sides carefully.

Let glue dry. Paint.

When paint is dry, shellac and add glitter.

Variations

Try three sections together. Glue two sections together with string and add third side.

Glue two sections together at bottom with string pasted in between the bottoms.
CHRISTMAS ANGEL ORNAMENT

Materials

4" square of colored construction paper
2 3/4" circles of gold coated paper
1 3/4" x 2" brown or manila construction paper for face
1" square brown or manila construction paper for hands
circles made from punch for eyes, mouth, and decorations
thin cotton yarn for hair
heavy cotton yarn for trimming - about 9" long
small piece of string or thread
scissors
paste

Procedure

Slant sides of 4" square to point in center of top. Side pieces will be sleeves.

Round bottom.

Paste yarn to bottom of dress leaving a small extension of yarn on each end. Paste extending pieces of yarn tightly to back.

Repeat with side pieces on wide end.

Round corners of 1 3/4" x 2" paper for face.

Paste on eyes and mouth.

Paste face over point of dress.

Cut points off side pieces for sleeves.

Paste side pieces behind dress.

Paste thin yarn on for hair.

Fold and cut gold circle in half. Fringe or leave plain. Paste on back, cut side for head.

Cut a small oval for hands. Paste on ends of sleeves.

Paste or tape loop of string to back of head for hanging.
FOIL SUNBURSTS

Materials
aluminum or copper foil - 36 gauge
sharpened wooden stick or ball point pen
compass
ruler
old newspaper
needle and thread
scissors

Instructional Level
Jr. High

Procedure
Place foil on several sheets of newspaper. With compass, draw three or more concentric circles, pressing heavily so that the foil is indented.

With ruler and stick or pen draw lines passing through center of circle. Add another line on each side of this line.

Repeat at right angles.

Trace over to get a firm impression.

Center may be left plain and lines added only to outside circles if desired.

Cut out between lines with scissors cutting from lines on outer circle to second circle.

Fringe from second circle to third circle, slanting toward center point.

Center circle may be tooled with a pointed stick or pen by pressing from a vertical position firmly and turning the tool to deepen.

To hang, pierce with a needle and thread and tie ends of thread together to form loop.

If copper is used, it should be shellacked to prevent discoloration.
HONEYCOMB HEARTS, EGGS OR BALLS

Materials

- thin paper such as bond or tissue
- white glue (i.e. Elmer's)
- scissors
- stapler
- toothpick

Instructional Level

Primary or Intermediate

Procedure

Take several sheets of paper depending upon the size of object wanted, i.e. for \( \frac{4}{2} \) inch ball or heart, two sheets of bond 9" x 9" or twice as many pieces of tissue.

For an egg use 9" x 12" paper. Fold paper in half, then quarters. Fold in half again. Repeat with second paper.

Open last fold and put two papers together. Staple at fold. Fold back and cut shape. Stapled fold is the center.

On the first section, using a toothpick to keep a thin line, apply glue starting near fold and slanting toward edge in a pie-shaped line about a third of the way down from the top.

Turn one paper and glue in the same manner, up about a third from the lower edge.

Turn again and glue as on first half. Continue alternating until all papers are used. Smooth well each time from center toward edge. Try to stop glue before coming to very edge, as this may tend to stick edges together.

Let dry before opening.

It may be pulled around to form a complete circle or two may be pasted together at the back with a string in between for hanging.
TISSUE PAPER TREES

Materials
paste
crayons
scraps of tissue paper, the color of which corresponds to the season, i.e.
  yellow, orange, red - autumn
  green - spring and summer
  pink & white - spring
background paper - manila or light blue

Procedure
Draw tree.

Add a little grass to picture.

Tear off a small piece of tissue paper about an inch in size; crumple and add a bit of paste, rubbing the paste in to insure sticking.

With ends of fingers together pinch press to branch, being careful not to flatten.

Scatter many pieces on branches and in spaces. Avoid putting tissue on the trunk.
LUNCH - BAG BUNNY *

Materials

- paper lunch bag
- newspapers
- string
- stick about the width of a pencil
- paste
- scissors
- 2 brown construction paper 12" x 4"
- 2 pink construction paper 10" x 3"
- 2 white construction paper 1 1/2" x 2"
- 2 pieces construction paper of any color 1" x 2"
- 3 thin strips of construction paper approximately 9"

Instructional Level

Primary or Intermediate

Procedure

Lay white construction paper pieces on top of each other and cut in oval shape for eyes. Paste on paper bag about one inch down from bottom of bag.

Lay 1" x 2" construction paper pieces on top of each other. Fold in half and cut in circles for inside of eyes, nose and mouth. Paste in appropriate positions on bag.

Hold 3 thin strips of paper in hand. Put paste in middle of strips and paste on bag for whiskers.

Fold 12" x 4" construction paper in half. Fold in half again and cut in shape of ear. Repeat with 10" x 3" piece.

Paste pink piece on top of brown piece to form ear. Repeat for other ear. Paste ears on back of bag.

Stuff bag half full with crumpled newspapers.

Poke stick into the center of the newspapers. Tie this securely to form the neck.

Cut slashes around the bottom of the bag.

* Fredrica Glass and Lela Gross, Calendar Capers, P. 77.
FLYING BIRD

Materials

9" x 9" construction paper
9" x 9" manila (for pattern if desired)
scissors
paste
punch
thread

Instructional Level

Primary or Intermediate

Procedure

Fold manila paper in half. Turn paper so that fold is at bottom.

Draw a circle up from the fold about as high as the head is wide.

To form body:
1. draw slanting line to fold
2. draw line for back, two times the width of the head
3. draw line from fold upward toward end of body

Draw tail at least as long as body of bird.

Draw bill.

Use width of head to help draw wing in correct proportion. Starting near head, draw outward two heads long or longer.

Cut out in one piece.

Fold colored construction paper.

Place manila paper over colored paper and keep folds together. Hold at fold and cut around bird outline.

Make punch-hole eyes in colored bird, or use other paper for eyes.

Fringe edge of wings and tail.

Paste inside on head, body and tail. Wings are not pasted. A thread may be added to make a mobile.

Bend wings outward.
BIRDS ON STICKS

Materials

- Plastic meat containers
- Kindergarten weaving sticks
- White glue
- Small piece of metallic paper
- Scissors
- Punch
- Pattern of bird
- Thin knife or nailfile

Instructional Level

Jr. High

Procedure

Trace pattern on plate. A dry pen is good because this digs down into the plastic and makes it easier to cut.

Trace two wings.

Cut out pattern in one direction from bottom to top since the plastic cracks when the scissors curve downward.

Cut fringe from outer edge for feather effect, cutting upward on wings, tail and crest. Cut toward head. As these feathers are cut, they tend to spread apart. Further feathering may be achieved by tooling with scissors.

Punch out two eyes from metallic paper or plastic.

Make a slit with a thin knife or nailfile in the underside of the bird, where the feet would normally be.

Glue stick on end and insert into the slit.

Glue wings in place, one on each side of the body with fringed edges toward bottom or tail.

Hold, hold, hold, until the glue begins to dry. This takes time. If the wings are held until they begin to set, the results will be more satisfactory.
BIRD PATTERNS

Trace on tagboard and cut out.
SIMPLE FLOWERS

Materials

squares of paper, any size
construction or thinner
small branch about 15" from tree or bush
or
cut branch from brown paper
green paper scraps
scissors
paste
tape

Procedure

Fold paper in half; then fold in quarters.

Turn paper and hold on folded corner.
Have open edges at top.

Round side corners.

Curl petals toward center by curling over a pencil.

Cut center from smaller square. Leave plain or fringe. If fringed, bend edges up.
Paste centers on flowers.

Cut leaves from green scraps.

Attach flowers and leaves to branch with tape or glue.
**Materials**

3 or 4 inch square of cardboard  
yellow pipe cleaner  
small piece of modeling clay  
egg carton  
scissors  
paste  
paint and brushes for flowers  
water  
1 strip green construction paper  
6" x 1" cut across the grain  
2 strips about \( \frac{1}{2} \)" x 10" cut lengthwise  
with grain

**Procedure**

From center of egg carton cut the four pointed section. On most cartons there are five of these. Those that have the higher points are preferable. Have these cut before presenting project to primary children.

Dip cut out section in water. This softens the papier-mâché so that points may be curved to simulate petals.

Paint flower and let dry.

Roll or bend one end of the pipe cleaner 3 or 4 times. Poke other end through egg carton flower until curled end catches to form center.

Take one \( \frac{1}{2} \)" x 10" strip for winding stem and one for leaves. Fold leaf strip in half and paste together. Let dry.

Apply a little paste to pipe cleaner close to flower and to one end of second strip. Run paste along pipe cleaner and wind paper in a bias motion to bottom.

Cut pasted leaf strip in 2 pieces and point on the end. Apply paste to straight end and paste against stem holding as you pull or twist outward.

Push stem into ball of clay and clay onto cardboard.

Apply paste to crosswise crepe paper 6" x 1" and wind tightly around clay pinching against the stem.
Giant Forsythia

Materials

3 yellow crepe paper 1" x 2"
3 yellow crepe paper 4½" x 6"
3 green crepe paper 1" x 2"
1 green crepe paper 4" x 6"
branch
paste
scissors
pipe cleaner – ½ for each flower

Instructional Level

Primary

Procedure

Roll over end of pipe cleaner.
Cover 1" x 2" crepe paper with paste.
Cover rolled end of pipe cleaner and twist around bottom. Make three of these.

Fold 4½" x 6" crepe paper in half on 6" side. Fold in half again. Round corners at top and down sides about one inch or less from 1" tom.

Open petals and apply paste along bottom edge.

Paste around center of flower, gathering as you paste.

Paste 1" x 2" paper around bottom of flower. Push small section around the base of the flower and twist the remainder around the pipe cleaner.

Repeat process for two more flowers.

Stretch crepe paper petal gently in center.

Twist pipe cleaners around branch.

Fold 4" x 6" paper the same as paper was folded for petals. Cut leaves from bottom to top.

Paste at bottom of leaf and fasten to branch by pinching it a little to the branch.
LARGE PAPER DAISIES

Materials

4 pieces white or colored construction paper 6" x 9"
2 kindergarten sticks glued together
1 paper towel
4" square of crepe paper
4 green construction paper circles 2" in diameter, pined around the edges
2 pieces 3" x 4 1/2" green construction paper
paste
scissors

Instructional Level
Intermediate

Procedure

Fold 6" x 9" paper in half on 9" side. Fold over once more. Fold again. (3 folds)

Hold on side that has single fold. Cut petal shape making four petals. Repeat on each 6" x 9" paper.

Tear off about 1/2 of paper towel; crumple remaining 3/4 into a flattened ball. Apply a little paste and stick on 1/2 piece of towel. Paste around edge. Wrap pasted edges over crumpled towel and flatten on bottom by pressing with fingers around sides.

Repeat pasting instructions with square of crepe paper and let dry.

Paste petals on flat side of center, one on one side, then one on the opposite side. Paste petals in middle of spaces left.

Repeat with other 8 petals always pasting one opposite another.

Paste two of the green circles together and fold in half. Repeat with other two.

Paste stick to circles by covering two half circles with paste and pasting stick between, having the top of stick at fold.

Cover top of green circle with paste and stick on back of daisy.

Cut leaves from 3" x 4 1/2" paper and paste to stem.
SUNFLOWERS

Materials

6 brown construction paper squares of the following sizes - 2", 3", 4", 5", 6" and 7"
3 pieces thin yellow paper each 12" square
1 piece green buttered construction paper 1/2" x 3' (see recipes)
2 or 3 pre-cut green construction paper leaves
scissors
paste
pencil

Procedure

Round corners of 7" square. Using close slashes, fringe around edge of circle produced from rounding corners. Bend tabs upward. Repeat with other 5 squares working from the largest to the smallest.

Apply paste to center of circles and paste together, starting with the largest circles and working down to the smallest.

Place 3 yellow squares on top of each other. Round corners. Fringe around edge, making a wide fringe about the width of a petal. Taper ends of petals to a point.

Paste yellow petals in center and paste one on top of the other.

Paste brown circles to yellow petals.

Curl ends of petals toward center by rolling ends over a pencil.

Paste leaves to stem.

Paste stem to back of flower.
GIANT LADY BUG

Materials

2 orange construction paper 6" x 5" or larger
1 orange construction paper 2 1/2" x 3"
1 black construction paper 4" x 4"
1 brown construction paper 4" x 4"
scissors
paste

Instructional Level
Trainable or Primary

Procedure

Place two 6" x 5" orange rectangles on top of each other and round corner.

Round corners of 2 1/2" x 3" rectangle.

Paste small orange oval over top of large one. Fold and cut remaining large oval in half length wise; put aside.

For legs use either black or brown square. Cut six times following edge on a slight slant. Last ones will be smaller.

Paste legs on head and body.

Cut two very thin strips for antennae. Paste on.

Take orange oval, set aside earlier, and paste on top of body for wings.

Decorate wings with torn or cut spots.

Wings may be slightly curled over by using closed scissors. Children will need help with this.

Variations

A narrower rectangle of another color will change it into another insect. Crayons may be used to decorate wings.
3 D GIANT INSECTS

Materials
construction paper - 4 1/2" x 12"
3 pipe cleaners
masking tape
scissors
crayons
paste
construction paper scraps

Instructional Level
Intermediate or Jr. High

Procedure
Fold construction paper in half.
Now fold same paper from left to right.
With single fold as center draw body of insect.
Cut around outline making two identical bodies.
Set one aside.
Color top of one body with bright colored crayon lines, dots or circles. (dark green, blue, black on light green; orange or red on yellow; black on orange, etc.)
Cut two thin antennae from contrasting paper.
Paste antennae on uncolored body at top.
Paste crayon bug over uncolored body joining only at the top part.
Cut colored top piece on fold as far as the pasted part.
Turn bug over.
Cut 3 pipe cleaners in two pieces each, to form six legs.
Paste or tape on legs to back of bug.
Bend pipe cleaners in two places.
Curve wings over closed scissors or finger.

Variations
Transparent paper may be used for top wing section.
TISSUE PAPER FISH

Materials
reed
thread
tissue paper
scraps of construction paper
scissors
Elmer’s Glue All

Instructional Level
Intermediate or Jr. High

Procedure
Take a piece of thin reed 10" x 15"; hold it in center with both hands and slowly bend it into a curve. Cross open ends.

Tie together with short piece of thread where reed crosses. Be sure to wind thread both ways to hold.

If a point for mouth is desired, gently press rounded end between fingers.

Cover entire surface of reed facing you with thin layer of white glue. (use a toothpick)

Place slightly larger rectangle of tissue over fish and smooth gently.

Reverse tissue so reed side is up. Cut construction paper eye. Circles made from paper punch may be used to suggest scales or eye, if fish is small.

Cover reed with thin layer of white glue and place second rectangle of tissue over it, smoothing gently; let dry.

Trim both edges of tissue close to reed leaving tissue for tail. This may be pined.

If fish is used as a mobile, a thread may be put in close to reed with needle or a small loop of thread glued on before second tissue.

Fish may be sprayed with clear spray.
PAPER PLATE CLOWN

Materials

- yarn
- scissors
- paste
- tissue
- stapler
- paper plate
- 1 construction paper 4" x 2"
- 1 construction paper 4.5" x 2"
- 2 construction paper 7" x 2"
- 2 construction paper 6" x 9"
- or
- 1 construction paper 8" x 2" and
- 1 circle 8" in diameter
- scraps of construction paper

Procedure

Round off two corners on 4" side of 4" x 2" paper and shape to form cone. Paste edges.

Wad tissue into a ball. Apply paste and stick inside nose. Paste bottom of tissue and place on center of plate.

Cut mouth shape from 4" x 2" paper.

Cut eyes and eyebrows from scraps in any shape desired.

Paste mouth, eyes and eyebrows to face.

Cut yarn in small pieces and paste on sides of plate at top for hair.

Round off two corners on 9" side of 6" x 9" paper and shape to form cone for hat. Paste edges and flatten. Decorate with circles for polka dot effect.

or

Fold 8" x 2" paper so that two edges meet in center of back. Paste edges together overlapping them. Decorate with a circle at top. This forms pillbox hat. Staple hat to plate.

Fold 8" circle over with edges not quite meeting.

or

Fold other 9" x 6" paper in half. Fold outer edges into center fold. Hold at point and bend inner points toward slant for collar. Slant top side and staple to head.

Instructional Level

Primary or Intermediate
Paper Plate Clown

Bring edges of 7" x 2" paper together and paste. Slant pasted edge. Repeat with other 7" x 2" paper.

Paste two 7" x 2" papers together by placing pasted edges on top of each other. Cover places where these meet with a rectangular scrap of paper. Paste to point of collar.
SLOT ANIMALS

Materials

1 piece of 6" x 6" construction paper
1 piece of 2" x 4" construction paper
scissors

Instructional Level

Trainable or Primary

Procedure

Fold the 6" x 6" square in half.

With the fold at the top, cut from bottom corners on a slant, to form one side of legs.

Cut about half way up on the inside parallel to the slanting sides. This forms the other side of legs. Cut across between legs. It is best to have legs rather wide as the animal will stand better.

Fold the 2" x 4" paper in half for head. The fold forms the bottom of the head.

Cut from middle of open edges about half way and slant toward the side.

Hold head on fold and bend down the ears on a slant or straight.

Open body and cut a short way in (not more than $\frac{1}{2}$") on both ends of fold.

Cut tail from scrap.

Add a dot for eye on each side of head.

Cut very small slot in tail and head (above fold) and slip into body.
Materials
8" x 11" strips of tagboard or buttered paper (see recipes)
scissors
paste

Instructional Level
Trainable or Primary

Procedure

Fold strips on each end to achieve table top effect.
Folds must be made from each end at an equal distance on one strip. This makes the legs of the animal.
Fold other strip unevenly so that one fold is longer than the other. These folds will later make the head and tail.
Note - An equal amount must be left between folds on each strip.

Cut a slit or small portion from between leg sections stopping about 1/4" down from fold.

Fold an equal amount forward on each leg to make feet.

From top body section, cut shape of tail desired from the end with the shorter fold. Bend tail to the desired position.

Fold top of head section down in proportion to the size of head desired.

From original fold, cut in two points to form ears, stopping at new head fold.

Bend ears and head forward.

Paste top and bottom sections together, lining up front and back folds.

Variations

Shorter or longer strips may be used to produce different animals, i.e. giraffes, rabbits, etc.

Tails may be cut separately and attached.
Mosaics

Materials

1" squares of construction paper
1" squares cut in half to form triangles
paste
9" x 12" mounting paper

Procedure

CAT -
Start at bottom about 2" from edge.
Paste seven squares, one above another, leaving small background space between each.

Paste two triangles on either side of top square with points downward toward center.

Paste two more triangles on either side of the third square with points upward toward center.

Now paste two triangles above these with straight side at bottom and outside. The triangular space left may be filled in with another color for eyes.

Body starts like head with two triangles, then four squares and two triangles again. Tail is composed of seven triangles, ears two. See illustrations for placement.

DOG -
Start at bottom and make a table with eleven squares, four up from bottom.

Fill in next row with three more squares. In next row put two squares and a triangle for the thickness of body.

Add triangles for feet.

Paste three squares in front of and in line with the top row. Place one square on top of the third square. Place ten triangles to complete head, ear and tail. See illustrations.

Another color triangle may be used for eye.
DESIGNS FROM PAPER CIRCLES

Materials

circles cut from construction paper of various colors ranging from \( \frac{3}{4} \)" to 5" in diameter
paste
scissors
9" x 12" background paper

Instructional Level

Primary or Intermediate

Procedure

Give children a variety of sizes and colors of circles.

Circles may be cut in half.

One of the larger circles may be folded in half and cut. Limit this to one circle.

Arrange circles or background to form picture or design. Try several ideas before pasting to background paper.
DESIGNS FROM SQUARES

Materials

squares cut from construction paper of various colors ranging from \( \frac{1}{2} \)" square to \( \frac{3}{4} \)" square
paste
scissors
9" x 12" background paper

Procedure

Squares may be cut on diagonals.

A punch may be used for eyes.

Arrange squares in the same manner as suggested in circle designs, until you have an interesting picture.

Paste to background paper.

Variations

Try rectangles for another project.

Strips of red and white on a blue background may be used for a patriotic approach.

For the initial lesson limit yourself to the use of one shape. Later, variations might be tried by combining circles and squares.
MANY-SIDED FORM

Materials

construction  scissors  paste  thread or string

Instructional Level

Primary, Intermediate, or Jr. High

Procedure

Cut from a folded paper, a form of any shape or size desired.

Place the first cutting on top of the second folded paper, not between it, to get it as nearly alike as possible.

Cut at least four more forms exactly the same as the first.

Paste forms together by pasting side of one form to side of next form. This is a good time to put string or thread near fold. Note - Let middle of each form open. Do not paste together.

When last form is in place, bring it around to top side of first form.

Variations

If the last form is not pasted around to the first one, the flat side may be pinned to a bulletin board, i.e. apples or pears on a branch.

Large eggs may be cut from 9" x 12" paper with designs cut out and used for the inside or below the large egg for a hanging design. Paste string to large egg on fold to extend on either end and through open space.

Sticks may be pasted to designs in place of string and designs may be grouped together in vase for a seasonal display, i.e. eggs, rabbits, chicks, etc.
SYMMETRICAL DESIGNS

Materials

- crayons
- paper

Instructional Level

Primary, Intermediate or Jr. High

Procedure

Fold paper in half and draw picture on one half of paper.

Fold back and rub on back of drawn half until picture or design is lightly transferred to other side.

Darken lines so that both sides match.

Color both halves the same.

Note - It is best to draw original lines firmly with wax crayons. This process may be used to develop a concept of contrast by starting with one large shape of any form and adding two smaller ones which may be a contrast in shape.

Continue developing designs with spaces or lines toward one edge or corner. Limit different shapes to five or less, repeating some. Face and mask designs are interesting approached this way.

Variations

- Turkeys - front view.
- Snow designs - using half a large snowman or animal and small snow balls. Draw all snow objects with blue crayon on white paper.
- Names - in crayon or cut from colored paper.
- Symmetric face mask designs - using cut paper with punch holes and circles made when paper is punched.
SYMmetric STRING PRINTS

Materials

pieces of string about 15" long
poster paint, several colors
spoons or sticks for scraping paint
9" x 12" white or manila paper or
any workable size

Instructional Level

Intermediate or Jr. High

Procedure

Fold paper in half.

Dip about 3/4 of string into paint jar; use
stick or spoon to remove excess paint as
string is pulled from jar.

Hold string over opened paper and guide to
form loops as the string is lowered.
Keep unpainted string over edge.

Close fold and place hand on folded paper.
With other hand pull string with a swinging
motion toward the edge, reversing direction
if desired. As the string is swung and
pulled, the feathering motion print results.

Repeat process with another color or use
two colors at one pulling.

Three strings of paint such as yellow, orange,
and red; yellow, green and blue; or white,
purple and blue blend well together.

You get better results by limiting colors.

Variations

Use unfolded papers, placing one on top of
the other at the painted string stage.

Use white paint on a dark colored paper.
ALUMINUM FOIL SCULPTURE *

Materials
aluminum foil

Instructional Level
Primary, Intermediate or Jr. High

Procedure
This is the single piece method made by crumbling, bending, twisting and pressing.

Start with a rectangle of foil any size. Tear or cut out in spread eagle fashion, the shape of the figure which is to be made. The cut out resembles an animated cartoon figure run over by a steam roller.

Crush from all sides toward the center.

Press and crush to shape of desired figure.

Pencil point may be used for pressing eye.

Elmer's Glue All will help fasten piece together or glue to cardboard stand.

PAPER AND YARN COLLAGES

Materials

scrap paper
cotton roving or yarn
construction paper for background
12" x 18" - assorted colors
white glue
paste
scissors
12" x 18" newsprint

Procedure

Sketch an idea on 12" x 18" newsprint. Stress the point that this idea should be the student's own and that it may be anything he wishes. This will insure more interest in the project.

The newsprint may be blackened on the back with the side of a pencil or black crayon. The newsprint is placed on colored paper, right side up and the idea is traced over. The picture will now show up on the colored paper.

Paste colored pieces onto the background, fitting them into the outline. Outline these colored pieces with yarn by putting a small amount of white glue on the edge of paper and winding the yarn as you press it downward. Short pieces of yarn may be cut before gluing and sections may be filled in solidly with these.

Variations

Cloth scraps, buttons, corrugated paper, etc. may be used.

Thin tissue paper in brilliant colors may be used which may be torn or cut. A mixture of white Elmer's Glue All and water, about half and half in proportion, is spread over the background and the tissue is placed on in overlapping pieces to form a design.
BROKEN SILHOUETTES ON SPONGED BACKGROUNDS

Materials

- sponges
- water color
- water
- 9" x 12" white or manila paper
- black coated paper
- scissors

Instructional Level

Jr. High

Procedure

Soften watercolors with water before starting.

Wet paper with a large sponge.

Use pouncing method with small sponges in various colors. If yellow is used, work with it first, to prevent mixing other colors into it. If background is wet, colors will mix together to form interesting patterns. Try streaking or swirling with sponges. Make several papers for future use while materials are available.

Let paper dry and press flat.

Draw a design on the white side of black coated paper. Design may be drawn on open paper or it may be folded once or twice.

Cut out design and cut openings to make breaks in the solid black, i.e. eyes and other openings.

Paste designs on dry, pressed, sponged backgrounds. Small pieces may be added to the design.

Variations

Poster paint or drawing may be used instead of sponged paper background.

Forms may be cut out from sponged papers and pasted on plain paper.
MINT DISH *

Materials
aluminum sheet, equilateral triangle with 9 1/2" sides
3/0 steel wool
scissors
ruler
1/2" dowel
hammer handle
dividers

Instructional Level
Jr. High

Procedure
Lay out equilateral triangle with dividers by swinging a 9 1/2" arc from point A and another from point B. Points A and B should be 9 1/2" apart.

Draw lines from points A and B to the intersection of the arcs.

Cut out the triangle with scissors.

Locate center of each side of triangle and draw lines from one center to the other.

Insert aluminum triangle in 1/2" dowel that has been split along a part of its length. Roll forward until the dowel touches the pencil lines drawn from one center point to the other.

Repeat step above with the other two corners.

Use the hammer handle as an anvil to press the corners inward.

Polish with 3/0 steel wool and liquid soap. Wash with hot water and dry with cloth.

Variations
Copper may be used in place of aluminum.

DISPLAY IDEAS

The success or failure of an art activity can often depend upon the proper display of the finished product. The amount of enthusiasm with which the children react to their art periods, is in direct relationship with the interest shown by the teacher. A teacher who uses an art activity merely as a time filler, with no correlation with other subjects or without a follow up display, will get little enthusiastic reaction from the children.

An appealing art display serves several purposes. It stirs the interests of the children. It builds in them a feeling of pride in achievement. By displaying art work, children show themselves and others the work they are capable of doing.

There are many different ways to effectively display art work. The following are a few suggestions for some of the activities found on the previous pages. With a little imagination, teachers can fit other activities into the framework of the suggestions given.
OBJECTS ON CHILDREN'S DESKS

Cone And Crepe Paper Tree (page 12)

Egg Carton Flowers (page 24)

TRANSPARENT OBJECTS ON WINDOW

Tissue Paper Fish (page 30)
**Golden Faces**

My sunflowers looking o'er the fence.  
Stand in a row so straight,  
With honest faces of shining gold,  
They bow to me early and late.  

And in the winter, when frost has come,  
And the flowers have gone to seed,  
The birds t'will have many a splendid feast,  
When they come every day for feed.

Laura B. Young

**Traffic**

In summertime our garden walk  
is like a busy street.  
So many bugs run up and down  
with tiny little feet.  

I'm very sure that bugs must have  
some very special vision,  
For I have never ever seen  
a bugmobile collision.

Author Unknown
COMBINATION OF LESSONS

Christmas Angel Ornament
(page 16)
Muffin Cup Ornament
(page 14)
and
Egg Carton Ornaments
(page 15)

USE OF 3 DIMENSIONAL FORMS ON A FLAT BACKGROUND

Many-Sided Form
(page 38)
The following recipes are included as a ready-reference guide for the teacher. They include many common items which are often called for in craft projects.

All of the recipes have not been tried and it is suggested that the teacher do so before attempting them in a group situation.

**FINGER PAINT**

**Cornstarch Finger Paint ★**

\[ \frac{1}{2} \text{ cup cornstarch} \]
\[ 1 \text{ quart boiling water} \]

Dissolve the starch in a small amount of cold water and gradually add the hot water. Cook until clear. To keep all recipes from drying, add 2 tablespoonsful of glycerine. Add oil of cloves or wintergreen to keep it from souring.

For color, use poster paint, india ink, or powdered tempera mixed with water to a consistency of a smooth paste.

**Starch Base Finger Paint ★★**

\[ \frac{1}{4} \text{ cup dry laundry starch} \]
\[ \frac{1}{2} \text{ cup soap flakes} \]
\[ \frac{1}{2} \text{ cup cold water} \]
\[ 7 \text{ cups warm water} \]

Mix dry ingredients with cold water to form a paste. Add this to the warm water, stirring constantly. If too thick, add boiling water. Add powdered tempera or food coloring.

**Wheat Paste Finger Paint ★★★**

Measure into large pan 6 cups of cold water.
Mix slowly \[ \frac{1}{2} \text{ cup wall paper-wheat paste,} \]
\[ \frac{1}{2} \text{ cup soap flakes} \]
Add oil of clove, oil of winter green, or cologne for fragrance.
Add powder paint for color.

* The University of the State of New York Education Department, Bureau of Elementary Curriculum Development, *Art For Elementary Schools*, P. 94.


★★★ Ibid.
MODELING MATERIALS

Self-Hardening Clay *

This clay hardens in drying, and requires no baking. It can be bought commercially in craft stores or supply houses. It is practical to use when you have no kiln, or when you do not wish to fire young children's work. To make your own, add:

1 part dextrin to
19 parts of clay flour

Dextrin added to clay will harden the pieces so they will be substantial enough to last without firing. Be sure to use the dextrin made from yellow corn. White dextrin is not satisfactory.

Dextrin may also be worked into wet clay. Use 1 teaspoonful of dextrin to 1 pound of wet clay. The pieces may be painted when dry.

Crepe Clay **

1 fold of crepe paper - any color
1 tablespoon of salt mixed with
1 cup of flour
water

Cut the crepe paper into tiny pieces, confetti size. Place in a large bowl. Add only enough water to cover the paper. Allow it to soak for 15 minutes to make a stiff dough. Knead well until it is blended with the crepe paper.

Sawdust-Wheat Paste-Clay Mixture ***

8 parts sawdust
1 part wheat paste
2 parts dry clay
5 parts water

Mix together sawdust, wheat paste, and dry clay. Add water. This mixture is especially good for modeling puppet heads. When thoroughly dried, it is almost as hard as wood.

* The University of the State of New York Education Department, Bureau of Elementary Curriculum Development, Art For Elementary Schools, P. 96.

** Ibid.

*** Ibid.
Salt Ceramic - for Sculpture Material

1 cup salt
1/2 cup cornstarch
3/4 cup water

Mix the ingredients in a double boiler and stir constantly, about 2 or 3 minutes, until thick. Place on aluminum foil until cool enough to handle. Knead in hands until workable. Wrap well in foil and store in a cool place. When well wrapped the mixture keeps about two weeks. Baking soda in place of salt makes a finer material and can be used for beads and pins. When dry, it can be painted with watercolor and sprayed with clear spray.

Re-usable Clay *

1 cup water
2 tablespoons salad oil
food coloring to desired shade
4 cups flour
1/2 cups salt

Makes two balls, each about the size of a large grapefruit.

Combine oil, water and food coloring in a covered jar, and shake to mix thoroughly. Mix the salt and flour together. Add the water mixture to the dry ingredients, a little at a time, working with the hands to mix thoroughly. If necessary, add additional water, a little at a time, until the mixture becomes easily workable. It should be about the consistency of firm bead dough.

If this mixture is stored in a tightly sealed jar, or placed in a plastic bag immediately after use, it can be used over and over again.

Modeling Mixture - for Relief Maps **

2 cups salt
1 cup flour
1 cup water

Mix ingredients together until smooth and pliable. When used, the mixture takes at least a week to dry thoroughly.

Papier Mâché Pulp ***

Tear newspapers into small pieces. Soak in water overnight. Next day boil for 2 hours. Drain the excess water, leaving the pulp. Add 1 cupful of school paste or wheat flour to 5 cupfuls of well-mixed pulp. The mass is then ready to be used as a modeling medium.

* Mary E. Platts, Create, A Handbook for Teachers of Elementary Art, P. 55.
** Ibid.,
*** The University of the State of New York Education Department, Bureau of Elementary Curriculum Development, Art For Elementary Schools, P. 96.
MISCELLANEOUS

Watercolor

For a transparent watercolor, add sufficient water to the powder paint to obtain a runny consistency. For an opaque watercolor, add enough water or liquid starch to the powder paint to make a creamy consistency.

Sprays

Take 6 parts methyl alcohol and 1 part shellac. Mix and allow to stand overnight. Spray work lightly, using spray gun or atomizer.

Brush-On Fixative for Chalk

To 1 quart of water, add 7 rounded tablespoonsful of wheat paste. Stir well or shake in tightly closed jar. This mixture is brushed on the paper with a wide brush or sponge before the chalk is applied. Work on wet paper must be done quickly. To retard drying, place picture on pad of dampened newspaper while working.

Buttered Paper

Cover one side of construction paper thoroughly with school paste. Place a second piece of construction paper on top of this and smooth carefully over the entire paper. Press paper under a heavy object as it dries. This paper becomes very stiff and is good to use when a heavier paper is desired. If the paper is to be molded, i.e. into rings, it is best to use when damp. This method may also be used with other weight papers.

* The University of the State of New York Education Department, Bureau of Elementary Curriculum Development, *Art For Elementary Schools*, p. 92.

** Ibid.

*** Ibid.


