



EARTH MOSS BALL

GRADE 3-8

Create your own living earth using a variety of mosses, yarn, and other natural objects.

WHAT YOU'LL LEARN:

- Design an Earth Ball using two different kinds of moss
- Children will enhance their sense of creativity and connection with nature
- Children will enhance their fine motor skills

CURRICULUM OUTCOMES:

- Explore and manipulate a variety of materials, demonstrating their ability to express themselves
- Developing students' increasing independence as learners



Picture taken from mothernatured.com

MATERIALS:

- A variety of mosses¹; when you harvest the moss, be gentle and take a little bit of their substrate as well - this will give you the brown part of your Earth Moss Ball
- Water
- Bowl
- Blue Yarn
- White or cream wool (yarn)

¹ We put together this video as an introduction to mosses and how to harvest them safely (<https://youtu.be/TV8YTyNXyiw>) and an accompanying PowerPoint. Only harvest what they need, and don't revisit the same locations to harvest moss. You could take your students to the perimeter of the soccer field where there is disturbed soils, there are plenty of mosses growing over there if you prefer that they don't harvest mosses along the Knowledge Path.

This is an individual or group indoor/outdoor activity, it can be done in outdoor spaces of the school, home, backyard, or nearby parks/trails

WHAT TO DO

1. Take a bowl, put your mosses in, and let them soak for few minutes
2. Take the mosses from the bowl and squeeze out most of the water
3. Shape the darker, browner mosses into a round shape and wrap the cream or white coloured yarn around it. Moss will fall from your finger while wrapping, keep on wrapping until it stops falling out. Moss and possibly soil or bark should be visible while making the moss ball, don't cover it fully with white or cream yarn.
4. After making first inner moss ball, add a piece of bright green moss around the inner moss ball and wrap it with blue yarn. Wrap around the edges, make sure that they are secure.
5. Start covering other areas you wish to using green moss and blue yarn. Be sure that all sections of moss are wrapped and moss is not left hanging out of the ball.
6. After you are done, secure the last bit of yarn by threading it under the wrapped-up yarn or the ball itself.
7. Now, with your hands, manipulate the shape of the ball. Gently push the moss into the ball and roll it round to make it a complete sphere.
8. Attach another piece of yarn, so it could be hanged.
9. To maintain your Earth Moss ball, spray it with water every couple of days.

ASSESSMENT:

1. Learners are able to manipulate material to a create a sphere.
2. Execute the fine motor skills of wrapping the yarn.
3. Learners are able to visualize the required outlook of a finished earth model. Able to manipulate the wrapping of the blue yarn with the combination of the green moss on the brown moss creating their version of what it should look like.

EXTENSION:

- Class could collectively design a large moss wall art using left over moss and other things from nature to replicate the world map, covering the blue oceans, desert areas and green lush lands.
- Class could create a living terrarium with leftover moss.

CREDIT/REFERENCES:

This activity has been modified from mothernature.com (Penny Whitehouse).