



NATURAL PAINTBRUSHES FOR NATURE PAINTING GRADES KINDERGARTEN TO GRADE 2

Build your own paintbrushes using natural objects and paint a picture inspired by your surrounding environment.

WHAT YOU'LL LEARN:

- Learners engage in nature play with focus on designing paintbrushes
- Enhancing learner's creativity by discovering alternative ways of designing things from nature
- Why plastics can be harmful for the environment and why it is important (and fun!) to use alternatives.

CURRICULUM OUTCOMES:

- Students will explore and manipulate a range of materials to create artwork
- Learners will experience mixing primary and secondary colours

MATERIALS

- Sticks (one per paintbrush)
- Things from nature (leaves, pine needles, grass, etc)
- Elastic band or string
- Paint (enough to share)
- Paper



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

WHAT TO DO:

1. Take the class for a nature walk.
2. Encourage students to find things from nature which could be used to make a paint brush. Look for different patterns and textures and generate curiosity among the students to decide which piece from nature will generate a good print.
3. To make a nature brush, simply tie the pieces from nature using an elastic band or string. If you are using an elastic band, you might need more than one.
4. Learners may want to make more than one paint brush if you have collected different materials or maybe they might put all materials together and create one brush.
5. After students have prepared their paintbrushes, they could start painting using paints and explore mixing primary colours and the different patterns and textures that each brush can create.
6. The class can discuss the difference between regular and natural paintbrushes.
 - o Regular paintbrushes are often made from plastics which can be harmful for the environment as plastics are made from petroleum products which do not break down in the natural environment. Instead, plastics break up into tiny pieces of plastics referred to as microplastics which are very harmful to the environment.

EXTENSION:

- This activity could be extended by making colours from naturally found ingredients.

ASSESSMENT:

- Learners can demonstrate the knowledge of creating secondary colours by mixing primary colours.
- Able to attempt tying string or elastic on the stick displaying basic fine motor skills with help.
- Demonstrate decision-making skills by thinking what collection of nature pieces would go together to form a paint brush.

CREDIT/REFERENCES:

This activity has been modified from the

<https://www.messylittlemonster.com/2015/07/stick-craft-nature-paintbrushes.html>