

LESSON PLAN

AT-HOME ART PROJECT: Rock Painting and Placing INSTRUCTIONS

MATERIALS NEEDED FROM HOME:

- A chosen rock – smooth or flat rocks work best, but any rock will do!
- Paper
- Pencil
- Acrylic paint and paint brushes, Paint Pens, or Colored Markers

ART PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Participants will find a special rock from their yard or neighborhood and transform it into a work of art by creating a specific design and/or inspiration on it.

Why Rock Painting? Painting rocks is a relaxing and fun activity for kids and adults of all ages and can be a special creative keepsake.

PROMPT QUESTIONS:

- What shape does your rock resemble? Does it make you think of a particular object?
- Does your rock remind you of something?
- Is there a specific image or feeling you want to convey with your rock?
- What design will you choose to do? Create a design that means something to you.

ART MAKING PROCESS:

Step 1:

- Find and choose your rock.
- Try to find smooth, flat rocks. You can decorate any rock though. Perhaps a different shape resembles an object you will develop and create.
- A medium size rock works well, but you can use any size or shape that inspires you.

Step 2:

- Wash your rock.
- You want to remove any dirt, so it doesn't mess with your design. Use a little dish soap, water, scrub with a brush and make sure your rock dries completely.

Step 3:

- Practice your design on paper. Think about creating a pattern, image, or message that means something to you.
- Trace the outside shape of your rock onto a piece of paper with a pencil. Use the tracing as a rough draft and practice drawing your design within the traced rock shape.
- This gives you the chance to perfect your design. Once you have your idea and design down, begin thinking about which colors you'll use to in the different parts of your design.

Step 4:

- Draw your design on your rock.
- Use a pencil to *lightly* sketch your design on to your rock.

LESSON PLAN

Step 5:

- Add color!
- If you have paint or paint pens:
- Paint your design on top of your penciled design, use several coats if needed. Let dry in between layers. Use small brushes or a toothpick to make small details and/or dots.
- Tip #1: If you have it, cover the rock surface with white paint to help colors you paint on top appear more vibrant.
- Tip #2: Don't use dark colors on top of dark colors or light colors on top of light colors. Layer colors that have enough contrast so that the second layer won't cancel out the first layer.
- Consider using complimentary colors together, or bright colors to help your design pop.
- Think about adding texture! Try using a small sponge with your paint.
- You can write over your paint with sharpie markers, be sure that your paint has dried completely.
- If you have markers:
- Color in your design using the markers and consider outlining your design with a black sharpie to define it.

Step 6:

- Display your creation!
- Once your rock is finished, there are plenty of places you can display them. Indoors on shelves or tables or outdoors in your garden or potted plants. Another idea is to take your rock on a neighborhood walk and place it in a special place so other people can find it, and be encouraged.
- Option: if you are displaying your rock outside, consider spraying it with a coat of sealant to protect it from the outdoor elements.

LESSON PLAN

PROJECT EXAMPLES:

