



## Lesson: Window Terrarium

Artform: Visual Art

Skill Level: Medium

Teaching Artist: Kathi Darby

### LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Student will follow step by step directions.
- Student will explore mixed media.
- Students will use creativity and composition to create an original artwork.

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

This activity can be adapted to make sun catchers, aquariums, terrariums, a zoo or anything you might put up in a window to catch the light. This lesson will be creating an outdoor scene with trees, grasses and flowers.

### MATERIALS

- Two sheets of wax paper of equal size, preferably about 15 to twenty inches long
- Towel
- Crayons and/or markers
- Scissors
- Regular paper
- Glue or glue stick
- Tape
- An iron (to be used by adult ONLY).
- If you have construction paper, that can be used as well.

### ACTIVITIES

1. Tape one sheet of waxed paper to a table, counter, or any smooth hard flat surface taping just the edges and set the other one aside. (You will be ironing on this surface at the end of the activity.)
2. Using crayons or markers, design a landscape or garden on the waxed paper that has bushes, flowers, grasses and trees. Make them different colors and sizes. Try to use lots of different color greens!
3. On the regular paper using crayons or markers, draw different flowers and trees, color them in and cut them out. Remember that flowers can have round petals, curly petals, spiky petals or even diamond ones if you wish. Glue your cutouts in your garden.
4. Using any of the materials, add details like animals (birds, butterflies, rabbits, dogs, etc.), clouds in the sky and the sun. What else is in your garden? Maybe a birdhouse?
5. Once you have filled your whole paper and are happy with the way it looks, carefully tape the other sheet of waxed paper on top of it, trying not to move any of your cutouts. Again,

just tape the corners or edges.

6. **ADULTS ONLY** carefully iron the two sheets together using a low to medium hot iron on an ironing board or towel. You will need to press firmly and go over it several times to make sure it gets hot enough to stick together. If it starts to get crinkly it is hot enough. Stop and don't let it start to turn brown.
7. Turn the iron off and let both the iron and paper cool down. When the paper has cooled, carefully lift it. It should come up as one sheet with the drawings and cutouts in the center.
8. Trim it if you wish and tape the edges together once you have the size and shape you want. This can now be put up in a window so the light can shine through. Now you have a garden you can enjoy even on a rainy day.

#### **ACCOMMODATIONS FOR INCLUDING ALL CHILDREN**

Use large materials for drawing, prompting with suggestions. Use precut materials for students who may have motor issues. Use hand over hand are also ways to assist children as needed.

Adults only use the iron.

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