

Creature Collage

First Grade Art Docent Lesson

Finished Art:

A colorfully collaged animal cut out.

Art Technique:

Making an animal collage with different kinds of papers and textures.

Docent Box Contains:

12x18 Tag Board

Creature Templates (caterpillar/butterfly, chick/rooster, tadpole/frog)

Permanent Black Markers

Glue brushes

Cups for glue

Bowls for tissue paper

Collage materials: tissue paper in small scraps, “special” collage materials to add sparkle and texture.

Teacher Provides:

Pencils

Introduction (<5 minutes):

Have children move to the carpet area while you review the project. During this lesson time, helper docents should be filling containers with about 1/2-inch of glue, to pass out later.

Helpers can also be passing out one sheet of tag board to each desk, and prepping a container of collage papers for each table group, to be used later.

Demonstration (<5 minutes):

Have the children return to their desks and take out a pencil.

Show children the project they will be making and explain how they will do it: “Today we are going to make a *collage* of a creature that undergoes a dramatic change from what it looks like as a baby to what it looks like when it is grown up. We will be using templates. They are a caterpillar, a butterfly, a tadpole, a frog, a chick, and a rooster. You will have a choice of these and you will need to take turns. You will first trace the template on your tag board paper with your pencil. Raise your hand when you are finished and we will give you a black marker to trace over the line. We will use different kinds of papers and items to cover your animal.”

Quickly pass out one of each creature template to each table group and a box of assorted collage papers for each group (this will expedite paper choosing!).

Have the students trace their creature in pencil and turn it over and put their name

on the back, within the shape of the creature. Turn back over to the front side and trace pencil lines with permanent black marker.

Show the kids how to tear the paper into smaller pieces if they need to (not smaller than 1" x 1/2").

Demonstrate how to glue pieces on: With paintbrush, put some glue in a **small area** – bigger than just one piece of paper, but only as big as 3-4 pieces – and then place torn paper on top of it. Be sure to tell them not to glue too large an area, or the glue will dry out before they can cover it. Have them think about the colors and textures they are choosing and where they would look best on their animal creatures. They can plan on making a pattern on their creature, or can mix up colors and textures randomly.

Artwork time (~40 minutes):

Pass out glue containers and brushes and have the kids get started.

Overlapping is a must and they should glue over their black marker lines, since the creature will be cut out later.

Docents float around the room assisting so that kids are not frustrated with the process. Some children will go very slowly. Show them some shortcuts, otherwise they will not finish in time. Fast workers can help clean up scraps off the floor.

The creatures should be set out to dry and will be cut out at a later time.

Clean-up:

Return all reusable scraps to the box.

Rinse all paintbrushes right away, since the glue will harden on them if it dries. Rinse glue containers.