

A DAY WITH NO CRAYONS
TOOLS FOR TEACHERS: MATERIALS AND ACTIVITIES

Color The Real World In A Mural

1. Read a nonfiction book about any theme you might be teaching. (Ladybugs for example.)
2. Tell the children to listen carefully and try to remember as many fun facts as they can about ladybugs.
3. Have them write two to three facts about ladybugs on lined paper.
4. Have them choose their favorite fact and help them to edit it.
5. After they write it in final form, cut it out, and set aside.
6. Next, hang a large sheet of butcher-block paper on the wall.
7. Have each child draw a picture of a ladybug. (Be sure to space them out. A small dot on the paper can be the cue for where to draw.)
8. As each picture is completed, glue the fun fact next to the ladybug picture.
9. Don't forget to have the children sign their work!

Create Your Own Color Names!

In *A Day With No Crayons*, Liza found color in places she least expected . . . in mud puddles, on red bricks, and on brown sticks. She found it in the pollen of flowers and pebbles along the ground. Color surrounded Liza and it surrounds your students, too.

You can open their eyes and fill them with color by letting them create their own color names. But, first . . .

1. Take them on a "color" walk around the outside of their school. Ask them to find as many colors as they can in nature or in the environment.
2. When you return, hang a large sheet of butcher-block paper on the wall and divide the paper into eight columns.
3. Label each column with one of the original eight colors. (Black, brown, blue, red, violet, orange, yellow and green)
4. Next, brainstorm new color names (Ex. Coal Miner Black, TOADally Brown, Bluer Than Blueberry, Beating Heart Red, Violet Prune, Candlelight Orange, Lazy Yellow, Froggy Green) and write the new color names under the original color name on the butcher-block paper on the wall.
5. Encourage the children to make up their own color names and have them write them on the chart under the correct color.
6. Watch the list grow!

MAKE WASHABLE CRAYONS!

For some good, clean fun, cook up this concoction, and then let your students doodle with soapy crayons.

Materials For Four Crayons: Multiply For More

Two 3.1-ounce bars Ivory soap

Cheese grater

1 tablespoon vegetable oil

3 tablespoons water

Saucepan

Mixing Spoon

2 teaspoons food coloring

Oven mitt

Plate or baking sheet

Wax paper

Soap and water

Airtight container

1. Have your students grate the bars of soap using the smallest hole on your cheese grater.
2. Place the soap shavings, vegetable oil, and water in the saucepan.
3. **TEACHER:** Place the saucepan on a stove burner and heat the ingredients on medium-low. Stir the mixture constantly with the spoon until the soap melts and the mixture is doughy.
4. Mix in the food coloring.
5. Remove the saucepan from the heat.
6. Spoon the soap out of the saucepan and onto a plate or baking sheet. Immediately soak the saucepan and spoon in hot water.
7. When the soap is cool enough to handle but still warm, have your students knead it with their hands for about 1 minute.
8. Divide the soap into sections. Or divide it into larger sections for chunky crayons.
9. Using the palms of their hands, have the students roll the soap into log shapes, then roll a piece of wax paper around each log.
10. Place the crayons on the plate or baking sheet and set them in the fridge to harden for about 1 hour.

Kids can color on bathtub walls and clean the artwork off with water.

EDIBLE ART WORK

Materials

Plastic drop cloth or newspapers
Vanilla pudding
Small ramekins or mixing bowls
Food coloring
Spoons or Popsicle sticks
Wax paper
Smocks recommended

1. Lay a drop cloth or newspapers under your work area.
2. Spoon generous dollops of vanilla pudding into each ramekin
3. Let your students add different colors and combinations of colors of food coloring to each ramekin.
4. Mix up the colored pudding with spoons or Popsicle sticks and leave a spoon or stick in each color.
5. Give each student a placemat-sized sheet of wax paper and a spoon or Popsicle stick.
6. Let the student scoop pudding of different colors onto their wax paper and make designs or pictures with their spoon or Popsicle stick.
7. Let them lick the wax paper clean!

RECYCLED CRAYONS

What do you do with those itty-bitty crayon pieces left over from your students' coloring. Recycle those broken pieces into big chunky crayons!

Materials

Brightly colored crayon pieces
¼ teaspoon vegetable oil for every 10 pieces of crayon
Nonstick muffin pan
Baking sheet
Oven mitt
Toothpicks

1. Preheat the oven to 275F.
2. Remove the labels from the crayon pieces. (It's easy to peel the labels from your crayons after you soak the crayons in a bowl of hot water for about 10 minutes.)
3. Pour the vegetable oil into a muffin pan cup.
4. Add enough crayon pieces to fill one-third of the muffin pan cup.
5. Place the pan on a baking sheet and bake for 4-6 minutes.
7. When the crayon pieces start to melt and blend, use an oven mitt to remove the baking sheet from the oven.
8. Stir the crayon mixture gently using a toothpick.
9. Set the crayon mixture aside to cool.
10. When it's cool, pop the crayons out of the muffin pan and they are ready for little hands again!

CRAYON TRIVIA

- Crayola produces nearly 3 billion crayons each year, an average of twelve million daily. That's enough to circle the globe 6 times!
- The average child in the United States will wear down 730 crayons by his or her 10th birthday. That's more than 11 boxes of 64 crayons!
- Kids, ages 2-8, spend an average of 28 minutes each day coloring.
- The first box of Crayola crayons was sold in 1903 for a nickel and included the same colors available in the eight-count box today: red, blue, yellow, green, violet, orange, black and brown.

AMERICA'S FAVORITE COLORS

Crayola crayons currently come in 120 colors including 23 reds, 20 greens, 19 blues, 16 purples, 14 oranges, 11 browns, 8 yellows, 2 grays, 2 coppers, 2 blacks, 1 white, 1 gold and 1 silver. In 2000, more than 25,000 people voted on their favorite Crayola colors. **The top ten:** Blue, Cerulean, Midnight blue, Aquamarine, Periwinkle, Denim, Blizzard blue, Purple heart, Caribbean green, Cerise

RECOMMENDED WEBSITES

A fascinating article on the history of crayons published in Smithsonian Magazine at http://www.smithsonianmagazine.com/issues/1999/november/object_nov99.php

More history at:

<http://www.ideafinder.com/history/inventions/crayon.htm>

Crayola's whole website is fun, especially its coloring application at:

http://www.crayola.com/coloring_application/index.cfm?referrer=/coloringCraft/craft/index.cfm&mt=digicolor

Wikipedia's list of crayon color names:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Crayola_crayon_colors

RECOMMENDED CRAYON-RELATED BOOKS

CRAYONS From Start to Finish by Samuel G. Woods

The Crayon Box That Talked by Shane DeRolf

The Crayon Counting Book by Pam Muñoz Ryan

Art Lesson by Tomie de Paula

Harold and the Purple Crayon by Crockett Johnson