



Paper Sun Catchers

In this package you'll find an engaging activity that you can do at home using materials found around your house! This art activity focuses on the ways that objects can be opaque, translucent or transparent. We hope you enjoy the activity and are awed, inspired and enlightened. This activity will require adult supervision.



PROGRAM BASICS

I. PAPER SUN CATCHERS

(Time: 30 minutes)

Children will create a paper collage to create a stained glass effect to decorate their windows and learn the concepts: opaque, translucent and transparent.

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS – SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Grade 1 - Students will investigate the effects of light on objects and that natural light originates from the sun.

Grade 2 - Students will explore the properties of solids using the vocabulary of opaque, transparent or translucent.

Grade 4 - Students will observe the ways that different materials can absorb, reflect or transmit light.

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS – VISUAL ARTS

Grade 1, Grade 2 and Grade 3

Students will develop an understanding of some elements of design - line, shape, and colour.

PAPER SUN CATCHERS

(Time: 30 minutes)

Children will create a paper collage to create a stained glass effect to decorate their windows and learn the concepts: opaque, translucent and transparent.

Materials

- Black construction paper or cardstock (Any other dark colour will work)
- pencil
- Scissors
- Glue sticks or white glue
- Tissue paper
- Wax paper or parchment paper
- Crayons or markers
- Clear tape

Pre Activity Set Up

Have an area set up where you can create the collage. If using liquid glue, wear clothes you don't mind getting dirty. Set up a tablecloth or a tray that you work on.

Instructions

Introduction

Explain to the children that natural light comes from the sun. But light can also come from human-made sources like lightbulbs. We see when light enters our eyes. When we can see through something clearly, we call that transparent: it lets most of the light through. When we can't see through something, we call it opaque: it doesn't let light pass through. When we can see through something a little bit but can't see images we describe the object as translucent: it lets some light through.

This art activity will let us use objects that are opaque, transparent and translucent.

Before creating your art, you can also discuss some elements of art: line, shape and colour.

One element of art is **LINE**. A line is a mark made using a drawing tool or brush. Can you describe a line for me?

- *Curved, vertical, horizontal, diagonal, zig zag, straight*

A second is **SHAPE**. A shape is something that is flat (2D). Can you give me an example of a shape?

- *Circle, square, rectangle, diamond, star, oval*

A third element of art is **COLOUR**. Can you give me an example of a colour?

- *Red, blue, orange, purple*

Development

Begin by brainstorming a design for the suncatcher. Sketch out a large design that includes a shape with a big hole or multiple big holes inside to add your translucent colourful pieces. Cut out the design.

You have a few options for the translucent paper that creates the stained-glass effect:

- Colourful tissue paper
- Parchment paper coloured with markers or crayons
- Wax paper coloured with crayons

Use glue to stick the translucent paper onto one side of the black design. If using tissue paper, experiment with layering different colours on top of each other. If using parchment or wax paper, create patterns, shapes or swatches of colours layered on top of each other.

Once the glue has dried, use the scissors to trim any excess paper hanging on the outside of the sun catcher. Tape it to a window and let the sunlight shine through.



Conclusion

After hanging up the sun catcher, ask the children if they can describe which parts of the hanging art is transparent (the window pane), translucent (the tissue paper/wax paper/parchment paper) and which is opaque (the dark paper).

To recap for older children, transparent objects transmit light (let light pass). Opaque objects absorb (soak up) or reflect (bounce back) all light and translucent objects transmit some light but absorb or reflect some light.