Art to Learn Your senses

K
Kindergarten

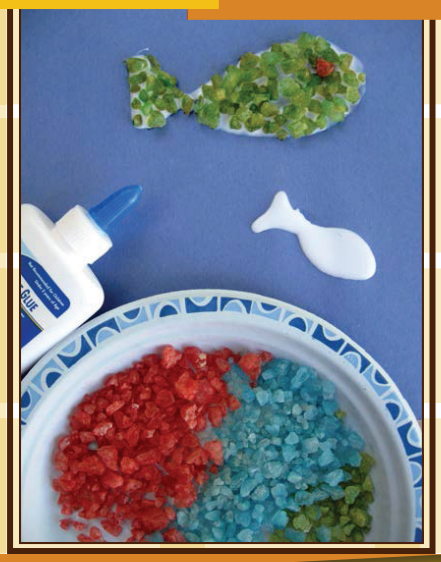
Coffee Filter Butterflies

Sponge Art Wrapping Paper

Make

Cut-n-Tear Collage

Rock Salt Mosaic



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Art to Learn Your Senses

Craft a Natural Materials Mosaic

A mosaic is an art form that includes small pieces of a material (commonly stone, glass, or tile) that are glued or cemented onto a flat surface. Give this technique a spring-inspired twist by helping your child design a seasonal pattern using all natural materials—leaves, grass, flowers, and more!

What You Need:

1. Nature materials (plants, leaves, flowers, etc.)
2. Clear drying, non-toxic glue
3. Cardboard (reuse an old box)
4. Scissors
5. Pencil

What You Do:

1. Help your child cut the cardboard into a geometric shape (like a circle, triangle, square, or rectangle). You may need to do most of the cutting, given that cardboard is thick and sometimes difficult to work with. In this case, have him draw an outline of his desired shape with a pencil.
2. Ask your child to draw a "nature" scene or object onto the cardboard with a pencil. This can range from a landscape with trees and a pond, to a simple sunflower. Try to avoid a scene with too much detail. Think loose, general shapes and objects.
3. Invite him to cover the large geometric or organic shape with glue. (Try watering down the glue and using a paint brush to spread it.) Then place the natrual objects (leaves, flower petals, twigs, etc.) onto the glue, mosaic style. Simply have him line up the objects next to each other to form areas of the picture. Discuss the shapes and patterns that he sees as he goes along.
4. Set the nature mosaic aside to dry.

http://www.education.com/activity/article/craft-natural-materials-mosaic/

Nature Craft

Texture Garden

Explore nature with a fun art project! Take a handful of crayons outside and look at all the textures that surround where you live. You can discuss objects that are hard, soft, rough, bumpy and smooth. Kids also learn about different rubbings. If they press hard, it will create a strong image, and softer strokes create a soft, blurry image.

What You Need:

1. Pre-cut 3"x3" squares of white paper
2. Scissors
3. Crayons in all colors
4. Glue stick
5. Black vellum paper

What You Do:

1. Bring your child outdoors on a sunny day and explain to her how to make a rubbing. Give a demonstration of how to place a paper square on top of an object and alter the pressure of the crayon in order to create an impression on the paper.
2. Help her search out objects that may need to be cut to use for a rubbing, such as leaves or flowers, and place them on a smooth ground surface to be rubbed.
3. Encourage her to make rubbings of a variety of textures including wood, rocks, concrete, leaves, grass, straw and anything else that is visible. Discourage making rubbings of living critters; they may not appreciate the pressure it takes to create a rubbing of their body!
4. Use a glue stick to paste down the squares neatly in rows onto a black piece of paper. Allow to dry.

http://www.education.com/activity/article/texture-garden/

Craft

Stained Glass Crayons

Is your child's art box a jumble of crayon stubs and broken bits? Don't throw them out! You can use crayon scraps to make beautiful "stained glass" window hangings and even more crayons.

What You Need:

1. Waxed paper
2. Crayon stubs
3. Crayon sharpener, (or a carrot peeler or grater)
4. Iron
5. Newspaper
6. Yarn
7. Hole punch

What You Do:

1. Cut two large, matching pieces of waxed paper and lay one piece flat on your work surface.
2. Peel the paper from your crayons. Have your child sharpen or grate the crayon bits over the wax paper in a decorative design.
3. When finished, top with the second piece of waxed paper and the newspaper.
4. Then, iron the paper on low until the crayons have melted enough to hold both pieces of paper together (keep lifting newspaper to check).
5. Let cool. Trim edges and punch a hole at the top. Add a yarn hook.
6. Hang in your child's window or around the house.

http://www.education.com/activity/article/stained_glass_crayons_kindergarten/

1 Craft a Cut-n-Tear Collage

This collage is a great way for children to see different methods of creating the same idea. Kids get to make the same animal twice: once with ripped paper and once with cut paper.

What You Need:

1. Animal stencil worksheets
2. Colored construction paper
3. Colored tissue paper
4. White paper for background (11" x 17")
5. Glue stick
6. Pencil
7. Scissors

What You Do:

1. Help your child cut out the stencil worksheets. Be sure to print them on thicker paper for best results. Invite him to create his own stencils if he is feeling extra-creative.
2. Cut out the stencil shapes with scissors.
3. He can now select the colors of the construction paper he would like to use with the shapes of the animal he is making.
4. Trace two of each shape onto the construction paper.
5. Carefully cut the first set of shapes out of the paper following the pencil lines.
6. Rip the second set of shapes directly out of the paper. Don't worry if the lines are not straight, or even if they're jagged or fuzzy. This will add character and personality to the animal and your child's artwork!

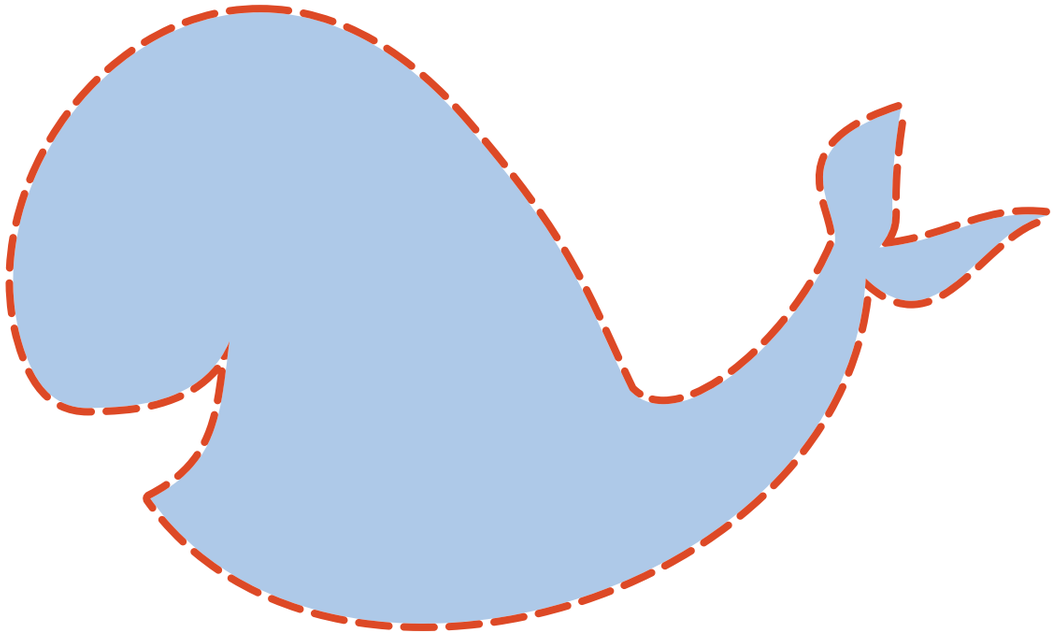
http://www.education.com/activity/article/cut-tear-collage/

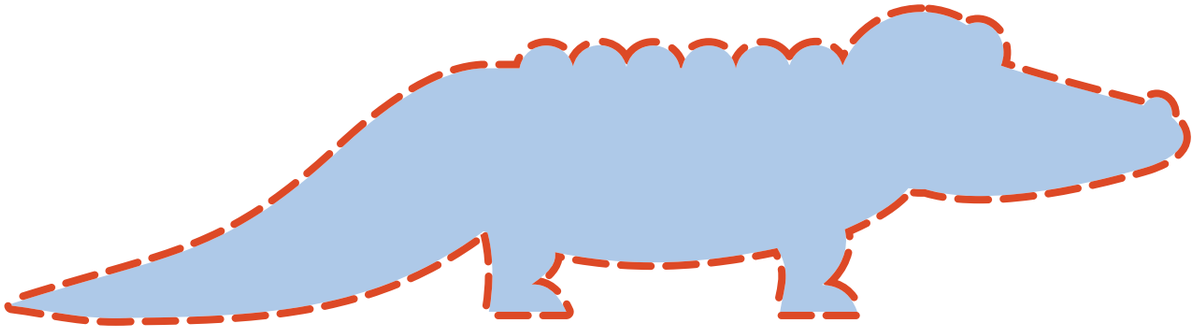
2 Craft a Cut-n-Tear Collage

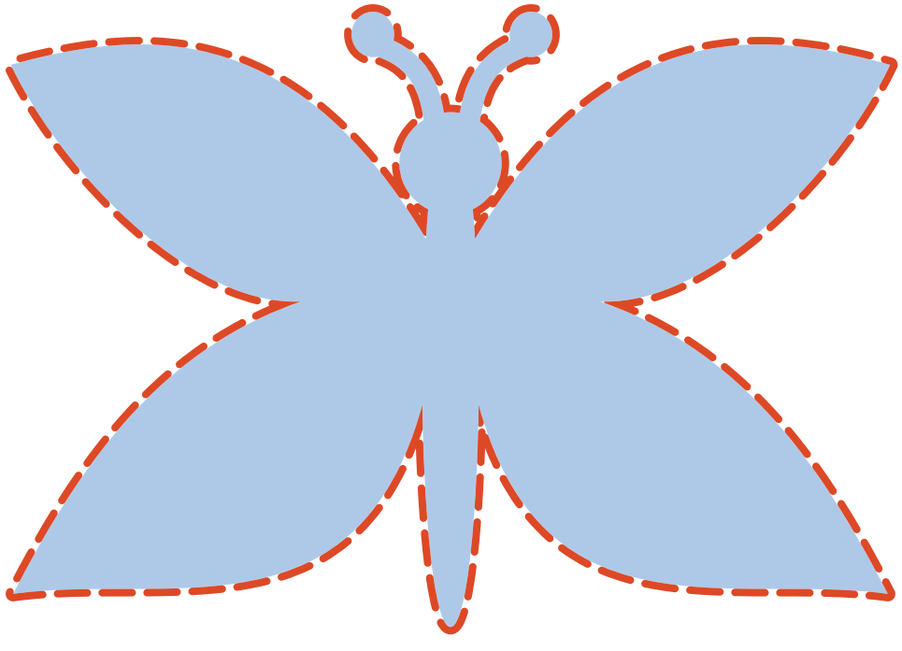
7. On a white sheet of paper, glue both animals down; one that was cut out and the other that was ripped out.
8. Now, have your child cut out and rip various pieces of colored tissue paper. Have him glue tissue paper over the top of his construction paper animals to see what different colors it can create!
9. Don't forget to fill in some scenery for the animal to live in. Practice painting or drawing backgrounds using markers, paint, crayons, or more cut out or torn tissue paper shapes.

http://www.education.com/activity/article/cut-tear-collage/

1 Use these stencils for your collage.







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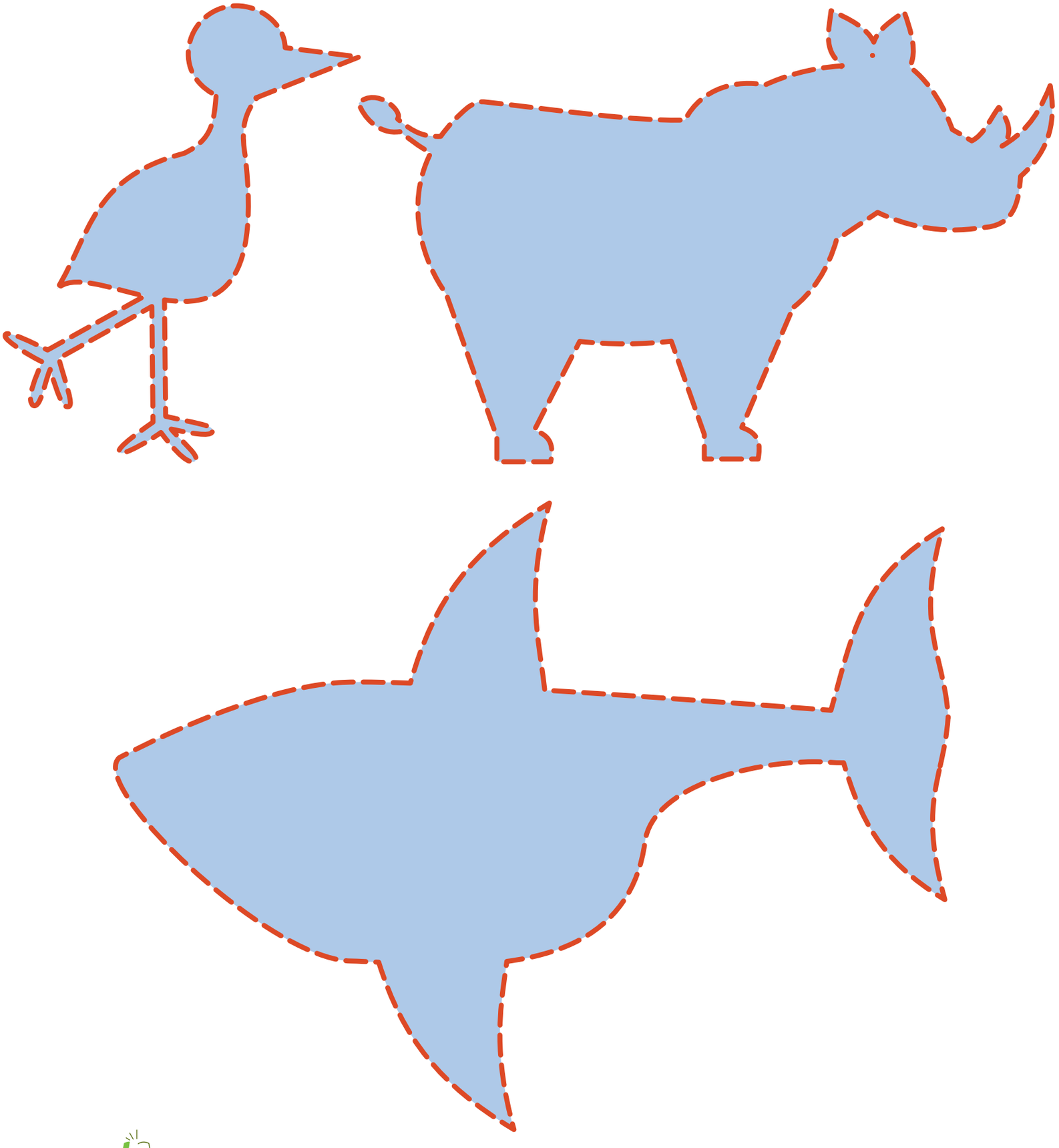
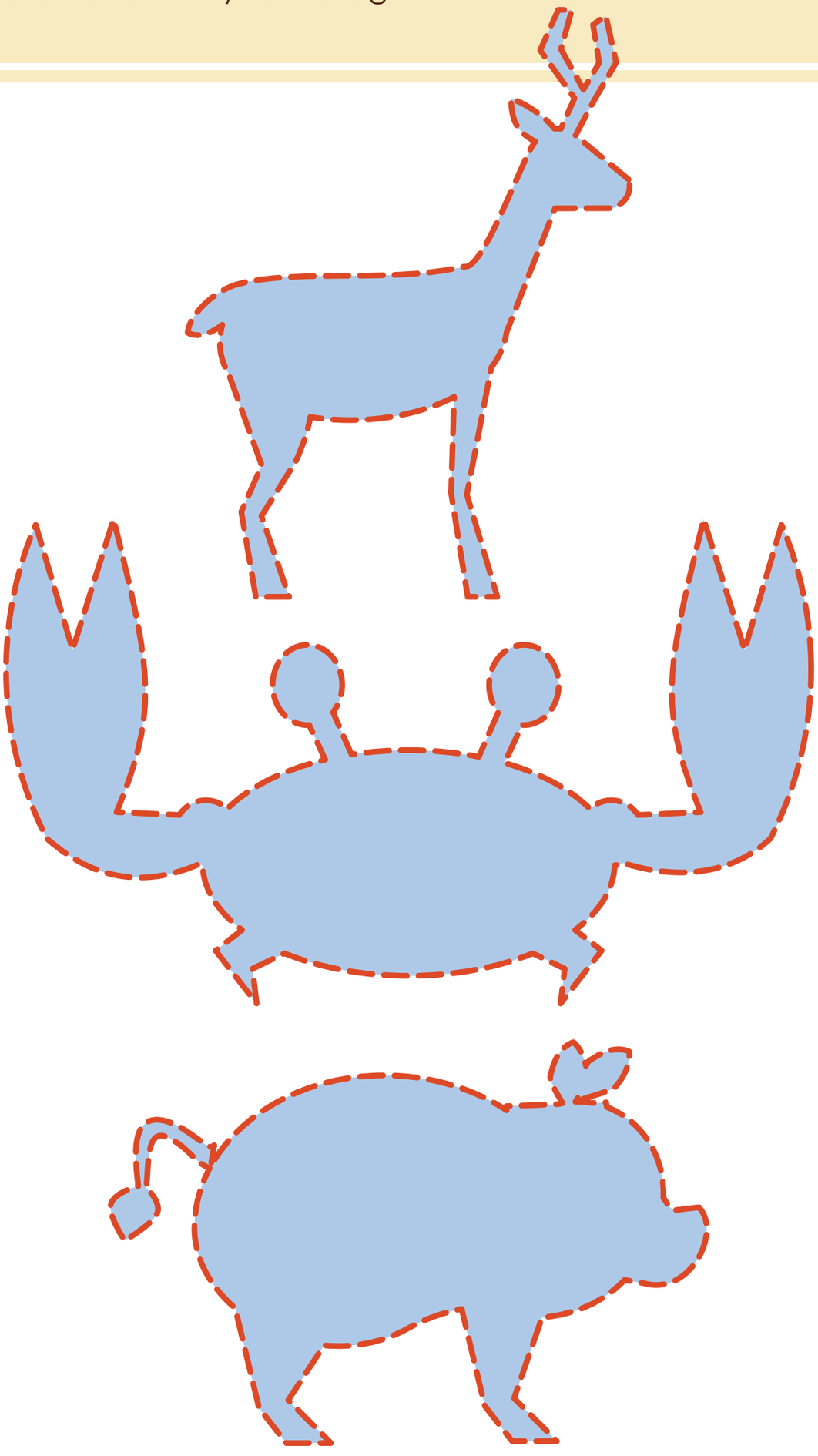


3 Use these stencils for your collage.



1 Mix Color for a Rainbow Stew!

In this activity your child will learn about ingredients before and after cooking and to make predictions about the final product. Your child will discover how primary colors are mixed to make the secondary colors.

What You Need:

1. Cornstarch
2. Sugar
3. Water
4. Measuring cups
5. A cooking pot
6. 3 small bowls
7. Wooden spoon for stirring
8. Duct tape
9. Heavy-duty plastic bags
10. Red, yellow and blue food coloring
11. Stove or hot plate (adult use only)

What You Do:

1. Show your child the ingredients you've assembled for your project. Ask her to describe each ingredient (are they solids or liquids?). Allow your child to help you measure the following ingredients as you place them in the pot. Mix 1/3 cup sugar and 1 cup cornstarch. Add 4 cups of cold water. Heat the mixture on medium heat until it begins to thicken, stirring constantly. Allow the mixture to cool. Encourage your child to describe the appearance of the mixture before and after it is cooked.

http://www.education.com/activity/article/Rainbow_stew_first/

2 Mix Color for a Rainbow Stew!

2. Once the mixture is cool, divide it equally into the 3 small bowls. Allow your child to add food coloring (one color per bowl) until the mixtures reach the color intensity desired.

3. Give your child a plastic baggie and tell her that she can select two colors to mix together. Let her use the spoons to place equal amounts of two primary colors of stew in the baggie. Make sure to have your child tell you which colors she is mixing.

4. Help your child seal the baggie tightly. Then have her knead the baggie to mix the colors to make a new color of rainbow stew. Ask her to tell you the name of the new color she made. You may even want to provide her with paper and markers or crayons to record her work. You may want to help your child write sentences such as: red and blue make purple; red and yellow make orange, etc.

5. Let your child mix the other colors until she has made all secondary colors. Allow her to display her rainbow stew baggies to showcase her color mixing work.

6. For a neat extension, try mixing varying amounts of the primary colors in order to create different shades of each secondary color.

http://www.education.com/activity/article/Rainbow_stew_first/

1 Make Coffee Filter Butterflies

Celebrate spring any time of year with this fun activity that has a green twist. Turn old coffee filters into beautiful spring butterflies, perfect for helping kids learn their colors while they create a lovely decoration for the house.

What You Need:

1. Coffee filters (white)
2. Watercolor paints
3. Pipe cleaners
4. Scissors
5. Paint brushes
6. Water
7. Spray bottles (optional)
8. Markers (optional)

What To Do:

1. Help your child spread out the coffee filters on newspaper or paper plates. Your child will be using water and paints (or markers), which will leak through the filters a little, so make sure your activity area is well covered. If you can, try to use the "basket filters" since they are already circular in shape with a flat bottom, which makes them easy to flatten out.
2. Let your child experiment with their butterflies. If possible, read her a book about butterflies or show her a picture and encourage her to look carefully at their beautiful wings. Does she see dots? Spirals? What kinds of shapes and lines does she see? Then let her go crazy painting the filters with the watercolors.

http://www.education.com/activity/article/Butterflies_are_flying/

2 Make Coffee Filter Butterflies

3. If you want to give this project an extra twist, have your child draw her designs using markers. When she's done, give her a spray bottle filled with water and let her spray the filter. Watch what happens when the water hits the marker. She will really get a kick out of watching the colors move and change. The filter will almost look like it has been tie-dyed!
4. Let the filters dry on paper towels (or newspaper). Then have your child use her fingers to gather the filter in the center, as if she is pinching it.
5. Help your child cut the pipe cleaners in half (this may be too difficult for her to do since pipe cleaners are tough to cut!) Wrap the halved pipe cleaner around the gathered area and twist it tightly.

http://www.education.com/activity/article/Butterflies_are_flying/

1 Make Shaving Cream Paintings

Let your child mash, squish, and mix his way to an understanding of color with some shaving cream and food coloring. This art and science activity will show your child how primary colors combine to make secondary colors.

What You Need:

1. Smock or apron
2. White aerosol shaving cream
3. Food coloring
4. Three zippered sandwich bags
5. White paper
6. Cotton swabs or small paintbrushes

What You Do:

1. Learning can be messy, so make sure to put your smocks on first! Now put a plum-sized dollop of shaving cream into each of the three zippered sandwich bags.
2. In one bag, carefully squeeze 3 drops of red and 3 drops of blue food coloring onto the shaving cream. In another bag, squeeze 3 drops of blue and 3 drops of yellow food coloring. In a third bag, squeeze 3 drops of red and 3 drops of yellow food coloring. Zip each bag closed.
3. Ask your child to observe what happens when he kneads the shaving cream in each bag. How does the shaving cream change? What hapens to the food coloring? What colors did red/blue, blue/yellow, and red/yellow turn into?

http://www.education.com/activity/article/making_colors_kinder/

2 Make Shaving Cream Paintings

4. If you want to extend the experiment, you can ask your child to predict what will happen when more or less drops of one of the primary colors are used. How can we make the colors deeper, less purplish, or more green? Will red and yellow always make orange? Will blue and red always make purple? Will blue and yellow always make green? Give him more shaving cream and zippered bags to find out.
5. When he's mixed enough colors, have your child use the cotton swabs or small paintbrushes to paint a picture using the colors he has created. The finished product with its unique color and texture is great for framing!

What's Going On?

An opportunity for art as well as science, this activity allows your child to see firsthand how the primary colors (red, blue, yellow) can create the secondary colors (purple, green, and orange). Experimenting is an important part of discovery learning, which is learning that lasts. As a bonus, the act of kneading the shaving cream for thorough mixing of colors gives your child an opportunity to work fine motor muscles that will be important in handwriting.

1

Make Sponge Art Wrapping Paper

Why not give the kids an activity they can do that also helps replenish your wrapping paper supply? This wrapping paper is made from sponge art -- and it's a fun way to take old sponges and put them to new use!

What You Need:

1. Sponges; multiple shapes and sizes are fine
2. Paint in primary colors (red, yellow, blue)
3. Bowls for holding paint
4. Paper plates
5. Butcher paper strips, or even newspaper
6. Markers and Scissors

What To Do:

1. Help your child cut the sponges into various shapes. Ask what shapes she would like to use as stamps. Suggest circles, squares, triangles, etc. It is tricky to do anything too intricate when cutting a sponge.
2. Lay out a long piece of paper. Newspaper will also work as wrapping paper, so you can always use that in a pinch.
3. Pour your red, yellow and blue paint into separate bowls.
4. Encourage your child to experiment with mixing colors on paper plates. What happens when she mixes blue and yellow? What about red and blue? If she wants to make lighter or darker shades of each color, try adding white or black paint into the mix. She'll use these "new" colors to create the wrapping paper.

http://www.education.com/activity/article/Homemade_wrapping_paper_not_out/

2

Make Sponge Art Wrapping Paper

5. Have your child carefully dip the bottom of her sponge into one color paint, remove excess paint, and stamp it onto the paper. She can place the stamps in any way she desires. Repeat this process until she feels she's created the design she wants.
6. After it dries, see if your child would like to use a marker to draw designs on her sponge shapes. A shape might look like a monster, so draw monster faces on it! Encourage her to embellish the stamps using her imagination.
7. If it's holiday time, cut triangle sponge stamps and have the kids decorate them with thumbprint holly berries.
8. Let dry, and get wrapping!

http://www.education.com/activity/article/Homemade_wrapping_paper_not_out/

1 Explore Bubble Science

Here are recipes for bubbles that not only blow up nice and big, but do tricks and experiments! How? It's not a secret, it's science!

What You Need:

1. Water
2. Johnson's Baby Shampoo
3. Package of unflavored gelatin
4. Glycerin (found at most pharmacies)
5. Shallow baking dishes
6. Bubble-blowing materials (drinking straws, funnels)
7. Food coloring (optional)

What To Do:

1. Mix your bubble solution! You can just try out one at a time, or make them all at once and compare the different solutions!

   To make **All Purpose Bubble Solution**, gently mix one part water to one part Johnson's baby shampoo, and let the solution stand for a few hours. This solution is great for most bubble tricks, activities and experiments.

   To make **Bouncy Bubble Solution**, Dissolve one package unflavored gelatin into one cup of hot water (just boiled). Then add 1.5 - 2 ounces (50-70 ml) glycerin, and 8.5 ounces (250 ml) Johnson's Baby Shampoo. Stir gently. The solution will gel as it cools. Reheat it carefully in the microwave (about two minutes). Bubbles made with this solution will bounce off your clothes!

http://www.education.com/activity/article/bubblescience_first/

2 Explore Bubble Science

To make **Thick Bubble Solution**, mix 3 parts Johnson's baby shampoo to 1 part water. When you make a bubble with this solution, try puffing at it to make a bubble inside a bubble.

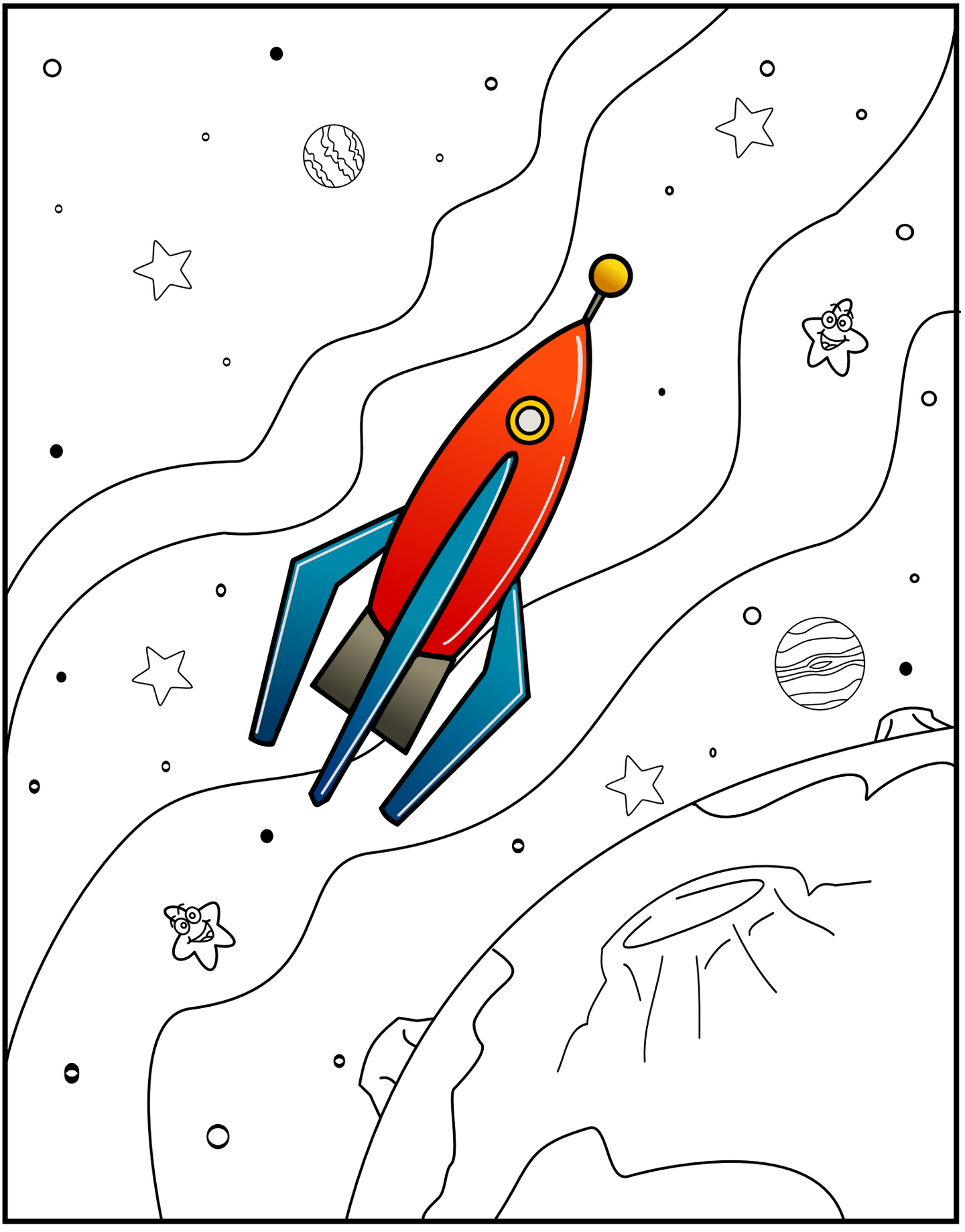
To make **Colorful Bubble Solution**, mix your choice of food coloring with the All Purpose Bubble Solution.

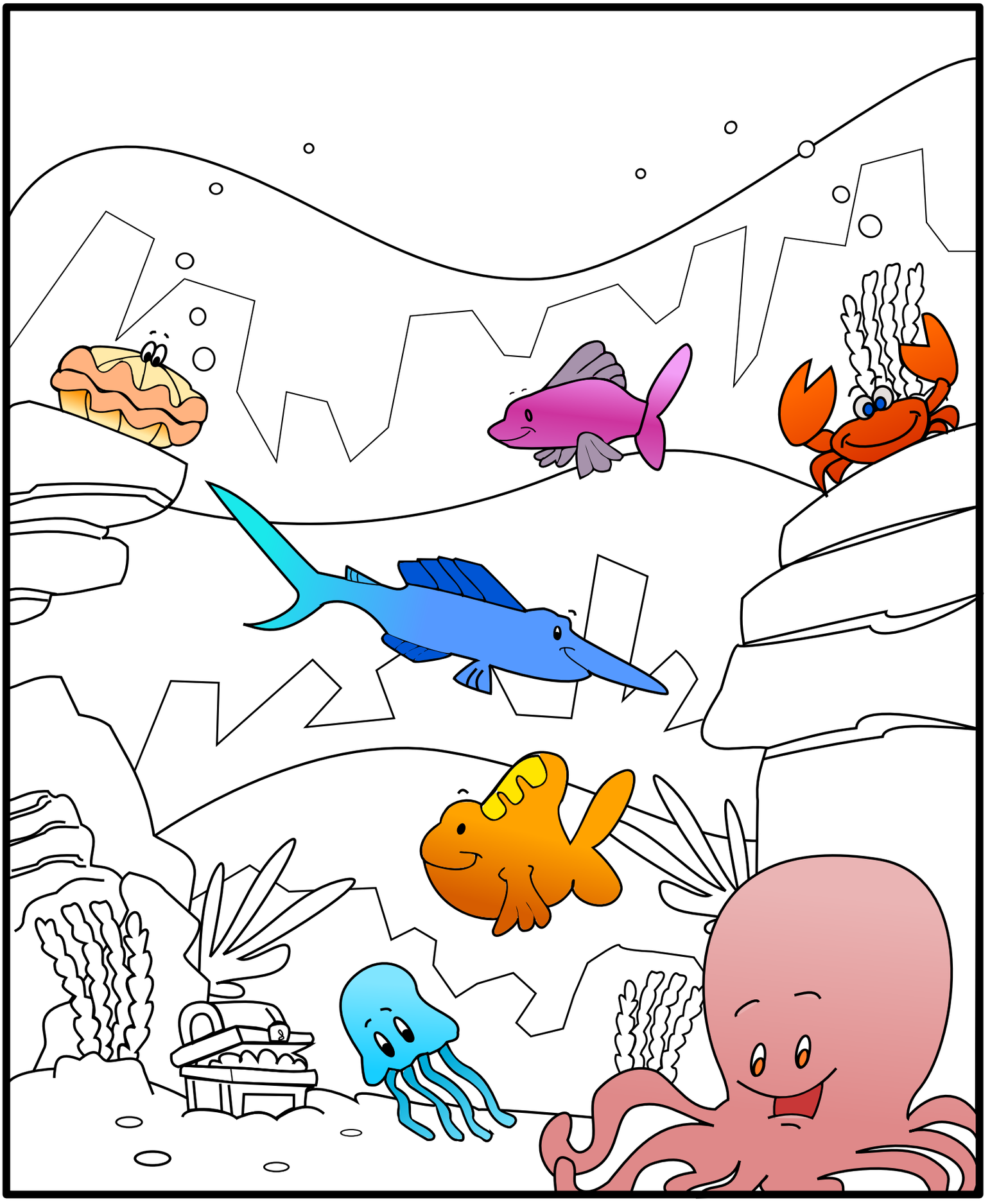
2. Once your solution is all mixed, put it in shallow baking dishes and get ready to experiment! Put a bunch of materials out so your child can try a variety of different tools, and make predictions about which will blow the best bubbles. Funnels, drinking straws, wire hangers bent into loops, pipe cleaners, all of these things work well. For a humongous bubble blower, thread a piece of string through two drinking straws and tie the ends together. Challenge your child to come up with his own ideas, too.

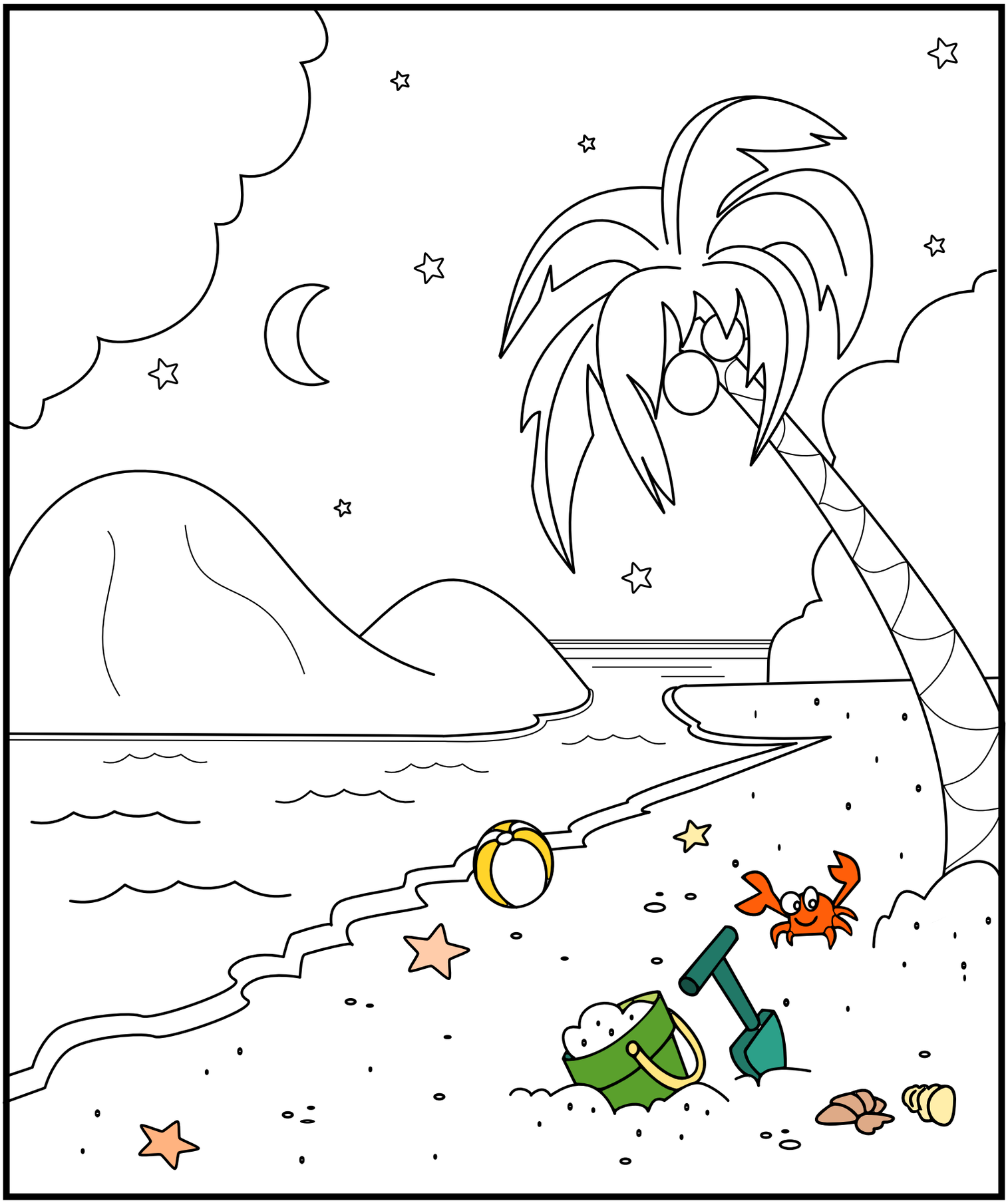
3. To make an art project out of this experiment, use the partially colored printables on the next few pages as your backdrop. Blow your colored bubbles toward the paper, and then "catch" them on the paper to create a neat image as the background of the picture. You can also "catch" bubbles on plain white paper to make abstract art.

Once everyone's experimented with all the materials, have everyone grab his or her favorite blowing tool and see who can blow the weirdest bubble!

http://www.education.com/activity/article/bubblescience_first/







1

Paint with Food!

By creating natural paints out of foods, kids can learn how color was found and used (before the invention of markers and crayons). From mustard to beets, there are tons of foods that can be used to dye clothing or paint pictures. This will help them learn about all of the natural color around them.

What You Need:

1. Foods for painting (dry mustard, paprika, cocoa, blackberries, curry, beets, red currants and more)
2. Watercolor paper
3. Water
4. Paintbrushes
5. Muffin tin
6. Spoons
7. OPTIONAL: measuring cup or medicine dropper

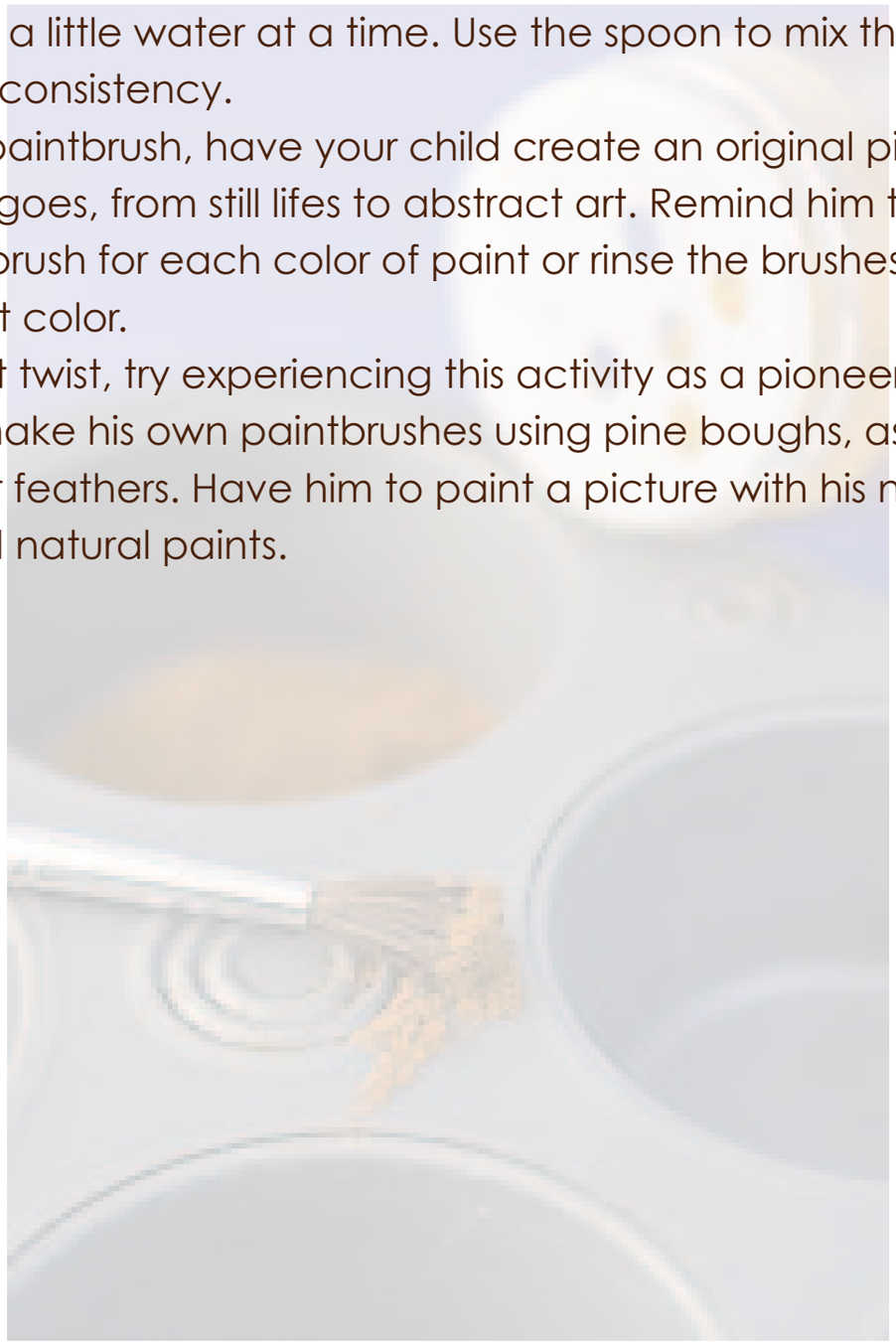
What To Do:

1. Ask your child to tell you his favorite colors. Write down the colors he names and explain that instead of using crayons or markers, you're going to make the same colors using food.
2. Go to the market! Pick out color-rich foods like the ones listed above. Show them to your child and discuss the color of each item. Tell your child that you are going to use the dyes in the foods to make your own paint. Have him predict what colors he can create using each food item.
3. Place a small sample of each food item in a compartment of the muffin tin. For example, place some paprika in one compartment and place some cocoa in a different compartment.

http://www.education.com/activity/article/paint_with_food_kinder/

Paint with Food!

4. Just add water! Using a measuring cup or medicine dropper, help your child add a little water at a time. Use the spoon to mix the food into a paint-like consistency.
5. Using his paintbrush, have your child create an original piece of artwork. Anything goes, from still lifes to abstract art. Remind him to use a different brush for each color of paint or rinse the brushes before using a different color.
6. For a neat twist, try experiencing this activity as a pioneer. Help your child to make his own paintbrushes using pine boughs, assorted grass blades, or feathers. Have him to paint a picture with his natural paint brush and natural paints.



http://www.education.com/activity/article/paint_with_food_kinder/

Make a Rock Salt Mosaic

Is your soon-to-be-kindergartener getting tired of the standard art supplies? How about making a mosaic? This art form dates back to the Egyptians and is still popular today!

What You Need:

1. Large rock salt
2. Assorted variety of food coloring
3. Rubbing alcohol
4. Mixing bowl

What To Do:

1. **Dye.** Pour 1 cup of rock salt into a bowl. Add a few drops of food coloring and a cap full of rubbing alcohol. Mix well and let sit for 5 minutes. Then drain onto a paper towel and let dry. Repeat this process until you have all the colors you will need.
2. **Outline.** On a piece of construction paper draw an outline of a simple picture such as a flower, the Earth, or a fish. Eventually your child can draw his own picture, but drawing an outline for him will get him going.
3. **Glue.** Hand over the glue bottle and the colored rock salt and let the magic begin! Have your child use a layer of glue to affix the rock salt to the design.

This activity will create a beautiful piece of art to enjoy, while at the same time practicing the art of using a glue bottle - an underestimated skill that your kindergarten teacher will thank you for later!

http://www.education.com/activity/article/Rock_Salt_Mosaic/

1 Color Science for Kinders!

Did you know that inks and markers are often combinations of several colored dyes? We can separate these combinations of colors or pigments through a process called *chromatography*. Here's how to get started:

What You Need:

1. Coffee filters
2. Clear plastic cup
3. Water
4. Tablespoon
5. Water soluble colored markers
6. Paper towels
7. Clothespins and adhesive magnet strips
8. Pipe cleaners

What To Do:

1. Use a pencil to make a mark on a coffee filter about two inches from the bottom.
2. Give your child the coffee filter and ask him to fold it in half. his own picture, but drawing an outline for him will get him going.
3. Use water soluble markers to decorate the bottom of the coffee filter above the 2-inch mark.
4. Add 2 tablespoons of water to the cup.
5. Fold the coffee filter in half and then in half again and place it in the cup.
6. Watch the colors move up the filter. Talk about the different colors that appear on the filter as the filter absorbs the water.

http://www.education.com/activity/article/Color_Science_kindergarten/

Color Science for Kinders!

7. Unfold the filter and place it on paper towels to dry.Once the filter is completely dry, your child can use his science project to make a pretty craft project! Allow your child to showcase the results of the chromatography experiment by making a butterfly magnet or a flower.

What's Happening?

When the liquid creeps up the coffee filter, it dissolves the coloring molecules and splits it into different colored chemicals. Different colors get carried along faster and farther than others because some color molecules are bigger and heavier than others.

Turn Science Into Art!

To make a butterfly magnet: gather the filter into a clothespin to resemble a butterfly; place a piece of the magnet strip on the back of the clothespin and display on your refrigerator.

To make a flower: fold the filter into fourths and twist the pipe cleaner around the bottom, then fluff the filter so that it looks like a flower.

http://www.education.com/activity/article/Color_Science_kindergarten/

Make Color Changing Carnations

White flower today, blue flower tomorrow! Give your science-savvy kindergartener a lesson in plant science with this fun carnation experiment. By the end, he'll have some new knowledge about plants and a cool gift for a friend.

What You Need:

1. White carnation
2. Glass jar
3. Water
4. Blue food coloring
5. Scissors

What To Do:

1. Have your child fill the glass jar with about a cup of water.
2. Help him squeeze five drops of blue food coloring into the jar.
3. Let him use a spoon to gently stir the water and food coloring.
4. Use scissors to trim off the last two inches of the white carnation's stem.
5. Have your child place the carnation in the glass jar.
6. Set the jar in a warm space and talk with your child about what a plant needs to survive. He probably knows by now that plants need water, but does he know how plants take in the water? Humans drink water -- what do plants do?
7. Check back on the carnation in about 24 hours.
8. Can your child see the effects of the blue water on the carnation? There should be little blue lines extending from the flower's stem to the petals.

Continue this color changing experiment with different types of flowers and dyes. What will happen a flower is left in the colored water for a whole week?

Hidden Object Hunt

Is your science sleuth up for a new challenge? Set up a fun guessing game for your curious kindergartener, one that will test her ability to use all five of her senses. Just grab some socks and a handful of super secret objects!

What You Need:

1. 5 tube socks
2. 5 clothes pins
3. Noisy object
4. Smelly object
5. Cold object
6. Bumpy object
7. Soft object

What To Do:

1. Gather up your hidden objects. You want your young scientist to use her senses to solve this science game. Try to pick things you know she'll be able to guess. An ice pack would make a fun cold object, for example.
2. Place each object inside a tube sock.
3. Clamp each sock shut with a clothes pin.
4. Lay the five socks on a flat surface.
5. Call your child to the room.
6. Tell her that she will be playing a science guessing game. She'll have to use her senses -- just like a real scientist -- to guess what each secret object is.
7. Let your child pick up and study each sock. Encourage her to use her fingers to poke, to use her ears to listen and to use her nose to smell.
8. Have her make her official guesses. Make sure you have her explain exactly why she guesses what she does. Help her open each sock to reveal the hidden objects. Did she get them all right?

1

Make Popcorn and Candy

Popcorn and candy are a match made in snack heaven. Let your curious kindergartener experiment with the tasty combo as you sneak a little compare and contrasting practice into the mix -- she won't even notice as she gobbles up these delicious treats!

What You Need:

- Popped popcorn
- 2 paper bags
- 2 plates
- Chocolate candies
- Sour candies
- Microwave oven
- Paper
- Pencil

What To Do:

1. Have your child divide the popcorn into the two paper bags.
2. Let your child add the chocolate candies to one of the bags.
3. Have her roll the top of the bag to close it.
4. Make sure she is securely holding the top of the bag before letting her shake it.
5. Have her place the bag in the microwave and heat for 30 seconds.
6. Help her check to see if the candy has started to melt. If not, microwave for another 30 seconds.
7. Have your child take out the bag and pour the heated contents onto a plate.
8. Now let her add the sour candies to the remaining bag of popcorn.

2 Make Popcorn and Candy

What To Do:

9. Have her carefully repeat steps 3-7 with this second bag of popcorn and candy.
10. Set the two plates side by side and study them with your child. Which one looks yummier to her? Have her think about all her senses -- except taste! That will come later. Do the two plates of popcorn smell the same? How do the melted chocolates feel compared to the melted sour candies?
11. Have her use a pencil to write down her observations on a piece of paper.
12. Time for the fun part of the test! Let your child make her final observation by comparing the taste of both popcorns.
13. Which one does she like better? Have her write down her answer. Was it the same one she predicted she would like based on looks alone?
14. Brainstorm with your child other tasty ingredients that might go well with popcorn. Nuts, fruit or pretzels are all fun options to try.

Great job!

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