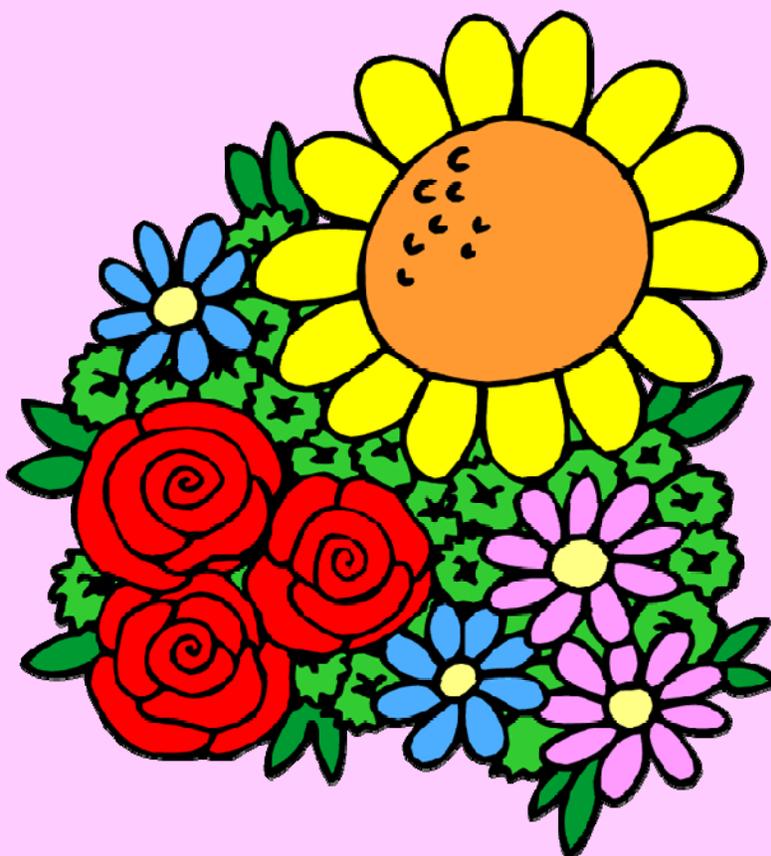




Spring Art Ideas

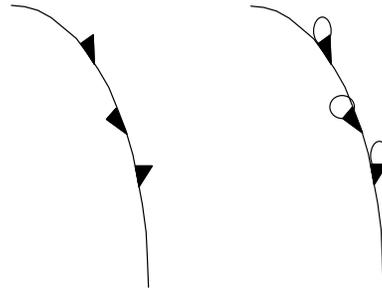


Ideas from teachers everywhere!

Pussywillows

Riddle

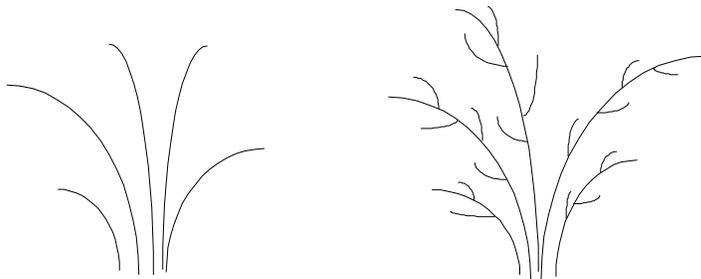
Gray like fur
but can't purr.
Soft as silk
but can't drink milk.
What am I?



"I have this written in the shape of a pussywillow. The answer is covered with a flap so that they can peek underneath. I then have children observe actual pussywillow branches and we discuss them. Following that, we do an art project. On long pieces (approx. 6"x18") of blue construction paper, children draw a branch using a black crayon. They use chalk to make the pussywillows. As they are working, I bring around 3 actual buds for them. One they can glue onto their paper, one they may tear apart to explore what is inside, and the third one they may take home."

Use a Q-tip and white paint to make pussywillows on the branches.

"When the first pussywillows arrive at school we always make fingerprint pictures of them. We cut tall vases from folded wall paper. Glue them on tall paper (9 x 18). Draw 4-5 stems that reach up high. After we look closely at the real pussywillows we press ONE finger to a black stamp pad. Use fingerprints to make the buds up each stem. They look fuzzy if the ink pad isn't too wet."



"We do pussywillows by drawing a few simple branches on light blue paper with brown crayon. Then we make the pussy part with white chalk, and then a brown crayon 'holder' for each one. I talk about not doing too many - a few neat ones nicely spaced are better than oodles of messy ones. They turn out really cute!"

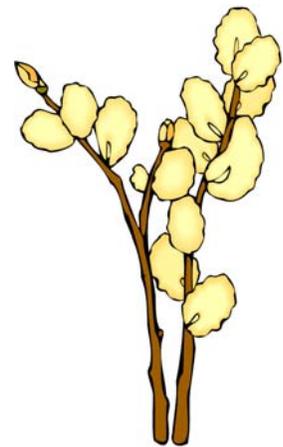
"Study a pussywillow branch. On good paper sketch the branch using charcoal. Highlight the pussywillows with white or yellow chalk. You can smear in a little brown/gray crayon as well. Spray with hairspray to prevent smudging and mount on black construction paper."

"You need real pussywillows, yellow/white chalk/ good quality art paper (watercolour painting paper), gray and brown crayons, black construction paper, an overhead projector and hairspray.

Have the kids examine the pussywillows closely, looking at the shapes of branches, thickness, texture, etc. Have them do a practice sketch on scrap paper. Lay the branch on an overhead projector and project on a screen. Discuss the shape, etc., again. Leave this on for the kids to examine while sketching.

"On good paper kids sketch the branch using charcoal. Highlight the pussywillows with white or yellow chalk. You can smear in a little brown/gray crayon as well. Spray with hairspray to prevent smudging and mount on black construction paper."

"Draw a few pussywillow stems with brown crayon on deep blue construction paper. With the brown crayon, make little 'cups' on the branches. Then take white chalk and make oval 'pussies' in the brown cups."



"I have my kids make pussy willows by dipping a finger into white paint and pressing the finger prints onto a branch for the pussywillows."

"A teacher in my school uses puffed wheat glued on for the pussies!"

Daffodils

"I make daffodils with yellow petals and yellow milk jug caps as the centres. They look really nice and we always get a lot of compliments on them."



"We first observe some real daffodils. I cut strips of yellow paper about 1" by 4" or so. I show the children how to cut one end into a point. Children glue about 5 of these into a star. Then I give them a yellow piece of crepe paper which has already been cut into a circle. I show them how to glue the centre of the circle to the centre of their star. Then we pull them up to form the cup of the daffodil. I have strips of green paper cut to make into stems. They also use strips of green paper to make the leaves. I show them how to trim one end to a point."

More Daffodils

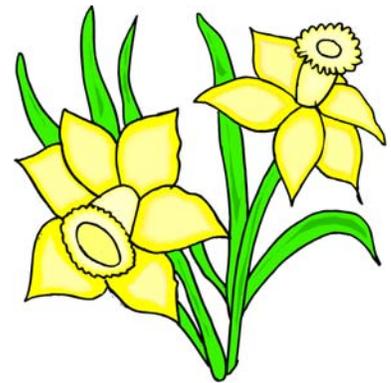
Cut a five pointed 'star' for the petals at the back of the daffodil, about 6" in diameter. Glue a yellow cupcake paper in the center for the trumpet.

To make daffodils, cut up paper egg cartons and have the children paint the individual cups yellow. (That's the cup.) Do this a day or two in advance and let them dry. Then the children trace a large star onto yellow paper and cut it out. Glue the cup to the star, and add a stem and leaves.

"We make 3-D daffodils. I buy inexpensive paper 9 inch paper plates in yellow - cut a daisy shape type pattern out of the plate. (I made patterns for the kids to trace on the plate - it has 6 petals on it) OR you could use a yellow paper plate instead of a white one. Don't buy waxy plates, because your yellow cylinder shape won't stick.

Glue a yellow cup-cake cup in the middle of the plate. This can be fringed, if you want. If you can't find these, make a cylinder of yellow paper. Cut in about 1/2 inch at the bottom edge and fold in and glue, and fringe the top edge.

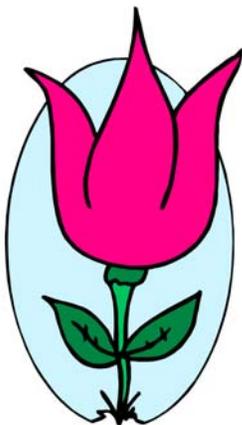
Make a green stem and leaves."



Tulips

Clean eggshell halves and dry them gently. Or, for an easier craft with more durable flowers, use foam egg carton sections. Cut the cartons sections to look like a tulip. Using tempera paint, decorate the shells to look like tulips. Let the paint dry overnight. When the paint is completely dry, add details to the tulips using markers.

Twirl one end of a green pipe cleaner into a spiral shape. Glue the spiral to the tulip (if using white glue, let it set for a few hours).



They can paint and cut out tulips...soooo easy. Paint the side of the arm green and press it down 3 times...v shape for the leaves and then in the middle for the stem. Then paint one hand a tulip color and press to the top of the greenery with the fingers and thumb held close together. When they are dry they can cut around them and tape to the door. Messy, but cute!"

Japanese Plum Trees

"We either blow drippy black paint with a straw to form a tree trunk, or just paint a trunk and branches. Then we glue on pink popcorn for the blossoms. Instead of buying expensive (and tempting to eat) pink popcorn, I crushed (with a hammer and paper bag) 1 large piece of pink sidewalk chalk until it was all powdery. Then all I did was dump the powder and my popcorn into a plastic bag and shake. Cheap pink popcorn - of course, they must be warned not to eat it."

I looked out the window and what did I see?
Popcorn popping on the apricot tree!
Spring had brought me such a nice surprise,
Blossoms popping right before my eyes!

"Pop popcorn. Put handfuls of popcorn in a plastic bag and add pink powdered tempura paint. Shake well to distribute paint all over the popcorn. Cut stems and leaves out of green construction paper and glue them to a background. Glue on the coloured popcorn to make spring flowers. Or.....Draw a tree with brown crayon or paint and add the pink blossoms. Dip the popcorn into a puddle of liquid glue."

Cherry Blossoms

"There are different variations on this project, but my favourite is to have the kids paint a tree trunk, using brown paint, on black or dark blue construction paper (practice this first on scrap paper so their trees look natural. We usually go outside and look at our plum trees first). Then when the paint has dried glue on the pink blossoms, using either cotton balls that you shake in powdered pink tempera paint, or pink popcorn."



Tissue Paper Blossoms

Materials:

- thin black paint or black India ink, straws, pink tissue paper, white paper (8 1/2 x 11)

What to do:

1. Use a straw or eye dropper and put a drop of ink at the bottom end corner of the paper.
2. Have the child kneel up to the table and blow through the straw to spray the black across the paper like a branch. (If they blow from above you get a big splat). Add another drop and make more branches across the paper.
3. After the ink or paint is dry give the children 1 inch square pieces of pink tissue to fit over the end of a pencil and glue all over the branches.

Spring Trees

1. Water colour 8x12 white construction paper with watered down blue tempera. Let dry completely.
2. Draw a low hill on bottom of paper and colour green.
3. Draw a tree using the letter 'Y' for the trunk and add more 'Y's and 'V's to make more branches with light brown crayon.
4. Using sponges cut into squares or strips, dab on leaves with green tempera. Dry completely.
5. Roll 2" squares of pink tissue paper and glue on to tree for blossoms. These look very impressive if you glue on to larger blue paper for a framed effect.

Beautiful Spring Flowers

"Colour two muffin cups various colours (they will be the flower head). You might want to make the centers yellow and the outsides a rainbow of flower colours... be creative! Cut out leaves and a stem from green construction paper. Glue the leaves and the stem onto a piece of white or pastel paper.

Glue the two muffin cups onto the top of the stem (one on top of the other) to form the flower. Flatten out the bottom cup a bit more than the top cup so you can see the petals (you can use more than two cups if you want... the more cups you use, the more petals your flower will have). You can decorate the paper further by colouring in grass, sky and clouds. You could also use balled up pieces of green tissue paper as grass and cotton balls as clouds.

Try colouring the cups with pastels, the stem and leaves with regular crayons and the sky with water colour paints (different mediums are always lots of fun for the kids). Or just put out a variety of mediums and let your kids pick which to use."

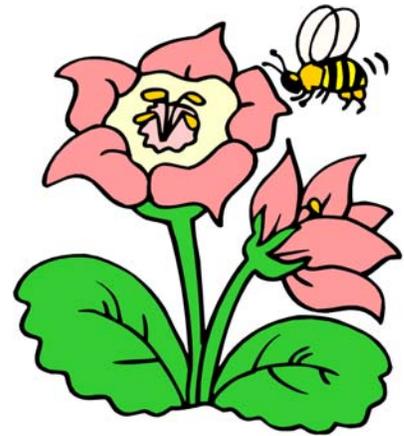


"Make coffee filter flowers! Cover the work area with newspapers or other protective covering. Let children draw or colour on 5-7 coffee filters with washable markers. Random markings are just fine as detailed drawings won't show up in this project. They can be made into a flower as they are, or dipped in water to make the colours run and then dried. Place one coffee filter decorative side down on the table. Stack other coffee filters decorative side up on top. Fold coffee filters in half. Scrunch middle of the coffee filters (starting at the bottom coffee filter). Wrap chenille stem tightly around scrunched area to hold in place. Straighten chenille stem to use as flower stem."

This is another finger-painting project to make big flowers. Use a variety of colours, as above, or one colour only. Have the children use the finger tips to make large spiral swirls on the paper, starting in the centre of the paper. When they are dry, cut out following the largest swirl in a big oval. These look like camellias or roses.

BIG Flowers!

Give each child a 10 cm. circle. Have them draw their faces on the circle, or use a photo. Then they trace 5 or 6 hands from brightly coloured construction paper and cut them out. Glue the hands behind the circle for flower petals. These make a great bulletin board for Spring, or can be sent home as Mother's Day gifts.



Finger-paint large paper with one flower colour, or two analogous colours (colours next to one another on the colour wheel: red - orange, blue - purple, yellow - orange, etc.) Don't mix the colours too much. When the paper is dry, draw huge flowers on the back of the paper. When you are pleased with the drawings, cut them out. Finger-paint paper in two shades of green, too, and draw and cut out leaves and stems. This makes a lovely colourful mural! You can use the yellow finger-painted paper to cut out flower centres, too.

"These two ways have worked very well when I have taught about *Georgia O'Keefe* to grade one students. The students have looked at pictures she painted about flowers/plants. We talk about how big her flower pictures are and how she used up most of the space for the flower. We look at flower and plant pictures in books and if possible real flowers and plants. The students draw or paint practice pictures and then choose one to make a good copy of.

1.) The students paint a canvas black and let it dry for the next art class. During the next art class they paint on the now black canvas using the chosen rough copy picture for guidance. The year we did this their paintings were put into the school art show. The paintings looked fantastic.

2.) This year the students used coloured chalk to draw the pictures onto black construction paper. We had run out of chalk pastels, which would have probably made the pictures look more vibrant, but you use what you have. The pictures looked good." Sue

"We make attractive flowers with handprints and a paper plate. The students cut out about 8 handprints for the outside of the flower and glue them on the paper plate so the fingers are partially out beyond the plate edge. The next layer will have 6 or 7 hands and will be glued so the ends of the fingers are about the plate edge. The third layer is on the inside of those. The palms will be cut back on the last layer. We use shades of the same colour or orange, yellow-orange and yellow for the layers. They make wonderful large three-dimensional flowers. You can curl the finger-tips for a different look."

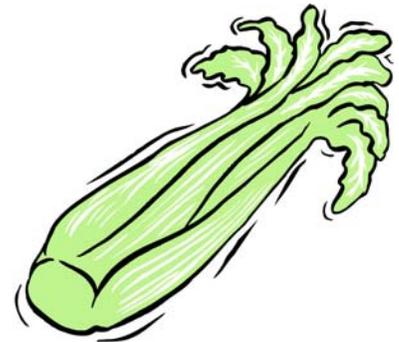
More Flowers

"We use coffee filters to make flowers. You colour them with markers and then spray water on them. They look tie-dyed. After they are dry, we hold the centre of the back of the filter and fold the sides down (like an umbrella) and then tie the centre with a pipe-cleaner. With older grades we put two or three on top of each other and poke a pin through the centre point and then gather them together. The pin holds all layers together as you gather the centre and tie it. After you make the flowers with bright colours, do some filters with green pens and cut out leaf shapes when they are dry.

You can also gather the filter across the diameter and tie it to make a butterfly. Flatten the centre for the body. Add a black pipe-cleaner for antennae."

"I make cute flowers using cupcake liners. We got ones in bright colours, but the plain white ones could be painted. The liners were the flower and we just used pipe cleaners for the stem. Everything was glued to a piece of construction paper and the children drew on leaves or whatever else they wanted."

"Make celery print flowers! Cut across a celery bunch, a couple of inches from the bottom. Dip in tempera paint, and print on paper. Use several colours. After everyone has printed one colour, wash off the celery, and print a different colour of flower. You can make other flowers by cutting peppers across the center and dipping in the paint."



Cut out small bright flowers from butcher paper or other light paper. Lay these on a sheet of wax paper about 18 inches long. Add tiny bits of coloured paper. When the 'picture' looks interesting, cover with another sheet of wax paper and iron. Small crayon pieces can be added, too. Then cool, trim the ends and add a border. These can hang from the ceiling or be put on the windows.

Draw a line about 2 inches from the long side of flower-coloured photocopy paper and parallel to the side. Make cuts to the line close together all along the long side to make a fringe. When the length has been fringed, lay the piece flat and roll around a pencil. Be careful to roll it straight! When it has been rolled, use clear tape to hold it. Now, fluff out the cut ends to make a flower. When the ends are outwards from the center, they can be curled to make them more interesting. The solid rolled part is the stem, of course.

Cutting A Vase

Fold paper in half - the hamburger way if you want shorter fat vases and the hotdog way if you want tall thin vases. Put the pencil tip about the middle on the top edge and draw a big 'S' that ends at the bottom of the paper. Cut out - and you have a vase!



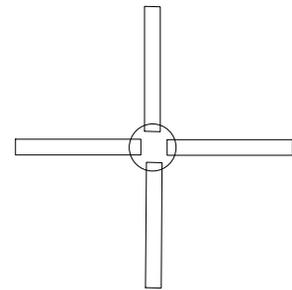
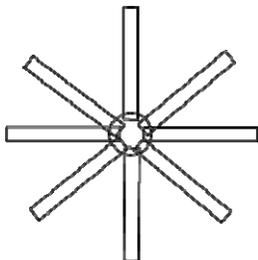
"Paint each child's palm a different colour (the colours of a rainbow), and their fingers green (don't paint the thumb). Stamp the handprint on their paper. Then have them glue tissue paper flowers (to match their palm colour) on top of each green finger. They will look like flowerpots with flowers. The flowers are made by twisting the tissue paper up, dipping it into glue, then sticking it onto the paper."

Daisies

These bright daisies make a great border on your classroom windows or at the bottom of a bulletin board.

Each child needs: 2 orange circles (4 cm. in diameter); 8 yellow strips (each 2 cm. x 30 cm.); 1 green strip (2 cm. x 30 cm.) and 2 green leaves (8 cm. long x 4 cm wide).

1. Begin with one orange circle. Glue the end of a yellow strip into the circle pointing upwards (12 o'clock), one pointing downwards (6 o'clock), and one right and left (3 and 9 o'clock).



2. Glue a yellow strip between each of these so the strips are spaced equally around the circle.

3. Glue the outward end of each strip back into the same circle. Do not press the loops flat - they need to look 3-dimensional. Hold each for a minute so the glue will hold.

4. Glue one end of the stem into the circle, too.

5. Glue the other circle on top of the glued ends, matching the original circle.

6. Cut out the leaves and glue to the stem.

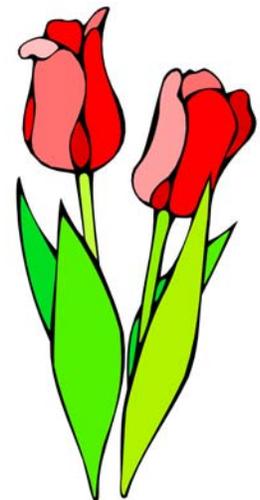
"We drew a large flower (pencil only) on cream coloured construction paper. Then we covered the stem, leaves, petals, etc. with ripped tissue paper (no tracing the shape or cutting allowed). This one drove the perfectionists in my class nuts, because you can't rip the tissue paper to perfectly cover the shape you drew, and it looked better if it wasn't too 'perfect'. The non-perfectionists in the class loved that they could 'colour outside the lines' on this project. I scooped this idea from another teacher in my school who had her class make owls using this technique - they look just incredible, and I'd never seen student art work with ripped tissue paper before (ripped construction paper, yes, but that doesn't have the same see-through effect)."

"The center is a circle where I have the students print why they like Spring. Then they glue that circle to a construction paper circle (the circles I have pre-traced, so they just cut them out). Then I show them a variety of flower petal styles they can cut out to glue to their 'middle' of the flower. They always look great.

"Another type of Spring flower art I do -

- make several tulip shape tracers,
- students use the tracer to trace the tulip shape onto a bright floral napkin. Heavier paper napkins work better.
- then they cut out the shape and glue just the edges onto paper, leaving the top open.
- then they stuff a small amount of cotton-batten inside the flower shape to make it puff out and finish gluing it down.
- add leaves, stem and either a vase or grass, etc., backdrop and they are done.

Our grade 3 teacher has her class make these as posters. I use them to make Mother's Day cards."



"Colour two muffin cups spring flower colours. You can make the centres yellow and the outsides a rainbow of flower colours... be creative! Cut out leaves and a stem from green construction paper. Glue the leaves and the stem onto a piece of white or pastel paper.

Glue the two muffin cups onto the top of the stem (one on top of the other) to form the flower. Flatten out the bottom cup a bit more than the top cup so you can see the petals (you can use more than two cups if you want... the more cups you use, the more petals your flower will have). You can decorate the paper further by colouring in grass, sky and clouds. You could also use balled up pieces of green tissue paper as grass and cotton balls as clouds.

Try colouring the cups with pastels, the stem and leaves with regular crayons and the sky with water colour paints (different mediums are always lots of fun for the kids). Or just put out a variety of mediums and let your kids pick which to use. You can also have the students make cuts all around the cups to the bottom circle line and then curl these 'petals'."

"I did a really neat project of spring hyacinths with my class (grade 2/3) recently and have received rave reviews.

I brought in a pot of hyacinths so they would know what they were going to make.

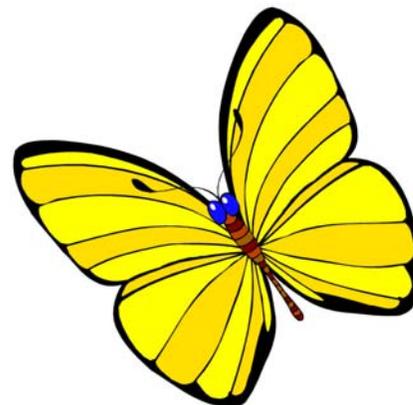
I gave them a tracer so they could trace a flower pot (imagine a clay pot). They painted the pot with 2 different colours of brown - a lighter one covering the whole pot and then using a darker brown to shade in the edges (to give it a bit of a 3 D effect).

Next they painted the stems and leaves with a paintbrush using green paint.

Next they moved to where I had quite small sponges (the print was about the size of a quarter) set up with pink or purple paint in 2 shades. They sponge painted the main part of the flower with the lighter shade (of their chosen colour) and then used a q-tip (cotton swab) to dab on the darker shade. I asked them to do a lot of dabbing so it didn't just look like little circles dabbed on, but was more blended. Just had to make sure they didn't start using it like a paint brush. They were very effective."

Butterflies

"Have the children trace around one foot and cut it out. Then they trace the left and right hand (some children may need help, so they can work in partners to do this) and cut them out. The foot is the butterfly's body and the hands are the wings. Add a face and antennae. Decorate the wings symmetrically. "



Have the children work in partners. They take off their shoes and stand with feet close together while the partner traces around both feet. The child puts a butterfly body between the traced feet, decorates the feet as wings, cuts it out and you have "butterfeet"!

Have each child colour a coffee filter with water-soluble felt pens. (Put newspaper under as the colour will come through.) Then spray the coloured filter with water. The colours run together. Let dry. Cut a black chenille stem in half. (You will only use 1 piece for this project)

Fold the black chenille stem in half. Twist the bent end about 1/2" from the bend. Accordion pleat the coffee filter in about 1/2" pleats. Slide the butterfly in-between the black ends of the chenille stem. Twist the black chenille stem above the butterfly to hold it in place. Separate the ends of the black chenille stem. Bend one end of the black chenille stem over about 1/4". Bend again. Repeat with other end. This makes the antennae. Fan out the butterfly's wings. If desired, hang with yarn or fishing line to make a mobile as described above.

"One project I do around butterflies is take a flat coffee filter and cut it in the shape of a butterfly leaving the bottom rough edge connected. Then I have the children take water droppers and drop water colour paint on the filters (wings) and hang it so the colours run down and spread. When it's dry it becomes a beautiful pattern."

"I do this too, but I don't cut them. I use clothes pins to pinch them in the middle. The clothes pin becomes the body."

"I make butterflies with the students handprints. You can also make flowers with one handprint - have the children trace their hands without the thumbs, round the bottoms of the palms and curl the fingers to make tulips."

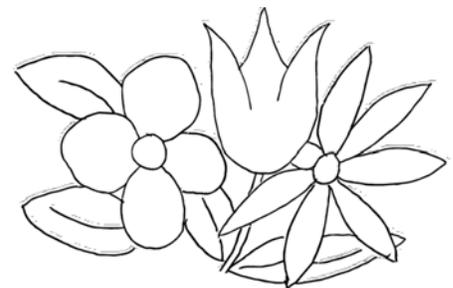


Fold a piece of white construction paper in half. Open it up again and drop spoonfuls of 'Spring' coloured tempera to one side of the paper. Close the paper and squish! Open it up and you have a symmetrical design. When dry cut out to make a butterfly.

Spring Murals

Make a big colourful mural for Spring! Give each child a piece of 11 x 17 photocopy paper. Fold up one corner and trim to make the paper 11 inches square. They draw a circle about the size of their palm in the centre of the paper. Then they draw large petals around this flower centre to fill the whole paper. Paint the flowers with bright spring colours. Try painting with fingerpaint and a finger! When the flower is dry, cut it out and glue onto a mural. Blue butcher paper (like a blue sky) is a good choice. Then paint the stems and leaves. Add some butterflies or bees on the flowers, too!

Draw huge flower shapes, birds and grass on mural paper. After it has been drawn, turn it over and draw big puzzle pieces that cover all the paper - enough for each student to get one. Number these in order and cut them out. Now each student gets a puzzle piece to colour. Paints can be used or pencil crayons (felts do not do a good job). After the pieces have been coloured in solidly, put the puzzle back together upside down, taping the pieces together. The pieces of a flower will be different colours and the general effect will be very interesting!



Paint huge trees on the mural paper. Crumple tissue paper squares and glue them onto the trees. Fringe green paper for grass.

"This week we got sick of the gloomy weather and decorated our big picture window. We made a huge umbrella that the kids decorated collage style, then cut out hundreds of raindrops and taped it all to the window. Then in another window, we made flowers (glue a bunch of cut out petals to a circle and throw on a stem) and hung those up too."



Spring Bulletin Boards

*In March the winds begin to blow
And it's time for kites, you know!*

Display kites the children have made.

You can title a bulletin board 'April Showers Bring May Flowers' and have half the class write their poems on umbrellas and the other half on colourful flower patterns.

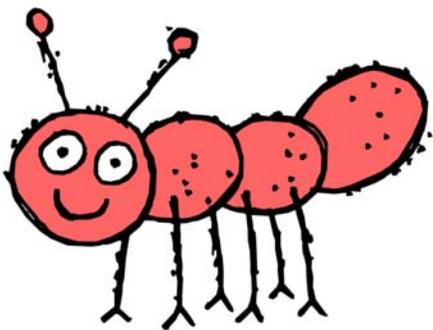
"We made a really neat display on our door which would also work well on a bulletin board. The title was We Welcome Spring with a Rainbow of Colours! I had traced the outline of a rainbow on blue paper leaving the spaces between the rainbow about 1" wide. They could be a little wider as well. Then my students cut out pictures from catalogues to glue onto each section of the rainbow to make the colours. Red, Orange, Yellow, etc., The rainbow actually turned out really neat and the kids had so much fun putting it together.

Then we added some grass below, and the students made a sun, puffy clouds, flowers and butterflies to finish off the whole effect."

"I made a large tree made out of brown butcher paper. It started out bare. Then it had a few nests with eggs on it and then grass was put at the foot of the tree as that happened outdoors. Next week, we will be adding daffodils around the bottom. We are adding something each week."

"I have my kids make Spring flowers for our Spring board - they look wonderful. The middle of the circle is a writing form where they write what they like best about Spring. They glue that circle onto a construction paper circle. Then around the outside they make petals. I have them decide on a petal shape and make one petal and use it as a tracer to make the rest. They can use one or more colours. They add a stem and leaves and it looks so bright and colourful."

"I did a really cute spring bulletin board last year for March winds. My students made hats out of chiné bowls and plates. Cut out the center of the plate and put the bowl into the opening. Staple around the edges. We painted the hats spring colors (lavender, light blue, pink, etc.) using acrylic paints. Then we decorated the area where the plate and the bowl were joined with purchased silk flowers. I also let them add some spring things like little plastic frogs, butterflies, bugs etc. We made a bow for the back of each with ribbons hanging down. Even the boys made these and enjoyed it!! I put them up on the bulletin board along with a big cloud that was blowing and a poem about blowing wind. It got rave reviews and when the kids took their hats home lots of families used them as part of their home decor - they really did look great!"



"I put up a bulletin board in May that says: 'Ant'sy for summer. I have a pattern of an ant (about the size of copy paper) that the kids colour, and cut out a copied picture (I photocopy their school pictures before they take the packet home) of themselves and glue on to the head. I have a piece of red checked tablecloth and paper picnic basket, and paper plates, I staple on the board, with the ants all heading toward it. BUT... you could put up ants, and use the 'Ant'sy for' with anything...like 'Ant'sy for Good Books or for Good Stories."

Are you studying bees? Here are some bulletin board slogans:

Hive You Heard? Buzzing Around. . . Here's the Buzz About . . . Honey Of a Bee
 Bee a Honey Of a Student One Terrific Bee Bee- u - tiful Student Queen Bee Of the
 Week Super Bee Of the Week Notable Bee Someone to BUZZ about.... High five,
 for the STARS of our hive... Look who's been a busy bee...

"I am using Robert Munsch's book *Mud Puddle*. I am going to cut up brown paper in puddle shape, have the kids walk through brown paint and walk on the paper - bare feet, of course. That will be the background. I am then going to have them write a few lines about playing in mud puddles, draw the picture, and hang them on the board. I am going to call it 'April Showers Bring Mud Puddles'.



"I always do an 'April showers bring May flowers' board. Of course, I have the board for 2 months. I have the students trace and cut out the shape of the top part of the umbrella from different wallpaper patterns. With a little bit of folding and some careful stapling you can make the umbrella stand out from the board. We make the handle of the umbrella out of a silver chenille stem (pipe cleaner). At the top corner of the board I put a rain cloud and make large raindrops.

We have done different things to go with the board. Last year they wrote acrostic poems for RAIN or STORM and I put those up under their umbrella. One year we did a weather graph to record the number of rainy days. You could also graph centimetres of rain. You could have them write rainy day stories. I title the board APRIL SHOWERS BRING..... Then in May I take down the umbrellas, add a sun at the other top corner and we make 3 dimensional flowers to go along the bottom of the board and do a writing activity about flowers."

"Make a giant handprint rainbow. Each child dips their hand in paint and adds to one row of colour. When I did it, we just did three rows of colours: red, yellow and blue. It was very effective. We sang the song: 'You can sing a rainbow'."

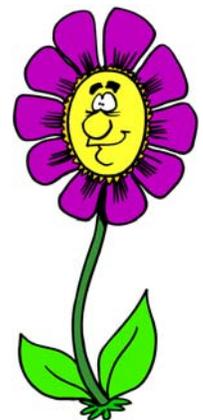
"I take a picture of each child with my digital camera, print them and cut them in a circle. We make big flowers and then glue the faces in the middle of the flowers. The parents love this board!"

"My favorite spring art bulletin board is SUNFLOWERS! I know they aren't blooming in spring, and should really be a fall project, but everyone loves the bright color in the hall when it's still so drab here.

The kids paint a large sheet of white paper with glue, then stick pieces of yellow tissue paper over the whole thing. When dry, they trace a petal shape about 35 times on this yellow paper and then cut them out. (This keeps them busy for a LONG time!)

Next, the kids cover a black circle (about 6") of construction paper with glue and then pour on sunflower seeds. When this is dry, they turn it over and glue petals around the outside of the circle. When those are dry, glue on another row so they are sticking out from between the first set of petals. (The photos of the students would work in these, too.)

I glue these to the bulletin board and then twist brown chart paper to make long stems and glue these to the board. The kids cut two green leaves that get added to the stems. It makes a great hall decoration. As we do other projects in class we add 'small art' to the flowers - (ladybugs from torn paper; butterflies made by blobbing paint onto a folded sheet of paper then folding and pressing and cutting out a butterfly shape, etc.)



"My ABSOLUTE favourite art project - the one I must do every year - is finger painting with condensed milk. This is not my original idea. I'm sure I read it somewhere (most likely on the internet). At or around Easter time, I plan a "colour mixing" lesson. I have 6 clear plastic cups, each with about an inch of condensed milk in them. To 3 of the cups, I add a primary colour of food colouring, one colour per cup. Then I start to wonder out loud what would happen if I put red AND yellow together in one of the cups. Of course, we do this. Conveniently, I have a recording sheet ready for them to colour (red + yellow = orange). I do this with yellow and blue and red and blue as well. Then the fun begins. Each child get a photocopy of an egg. I put a dab of each of the colours we created on their papers, and they fingerpaint. I also encourage them to have a small taste of the "paint" as well (on the tip of their finger, before we "dig in."). When these projects dry (which can take QUITE a while) they have a really interesting sheen to them, We cut out the egg shape, and they go on our bulletin board. It wouldn't feel like spring if we didn't finger paint with condensed milk!"

"We do a measurement theme in March. As one activity, we measure the height of each student. Then the child takes that measurement and some adding machine tape and cuts it to his/her height and then points the end of it. Then the name is printed vertically on the strip. I put up the strips in the hall with cross strips to make a fence. Then we put a row of daffodils along the bottom and decorate it with other flowers and birds. It is very cute!

I have also done the heights by making flowers on long stems, and put the child's face in the center of the flower."

"I cut out a large tree and tacked it to a bulletin board over a pale blue background. Beside the tree I have a pile of small 1 inch square pieces of pink tissue paper and glue sticks. Kids who finish their work can go there and put the bits of tissue over the end of a pencil, dab glue on the end and put it on the tree. It takes about a week, but the tree becomes very pretty!"

"I make a bulletin board with a big umbrella in the middle. We cut out raindrops and tack them on the board. Then I put up this: April showers bring May flowers!" We make spring flowers - daffodils, tulips and more and put them thickly all along the bottom of the board."

"I've used the giant sequins (about 3/4 inch in diameter) from a craft store (clear, or the shimmery pearlescent-looking ones) and stapled them up or tacked them up with sticky tacky to look like raindrops coming down...very neat effect on an April bulletin board."



Make a Spring bulletin board: **Two - Four - Six - Eight, Meet Me At The Garden Gate!** Of course, you'd have to have a garden scene depicted on your bulletin board. Incorporate birds and bird houses, flowers, wheelbarrows, watering cans, bees and a hive, garden tools, butterflies, ladybugs, etc. This would go really well with a Peter Rabbit garden as well."

Give each child a 10 cm. circle. Have them draw their faces on the circle, or use a photo. Then they trace 5 or 6 hands from brightly coloured construction paper and cut them out. Glue the hands behind the circle for flower petals. These make a great bulletin board for Spring, or can be sent home as Mother's Day gifts.

Wind and Rain

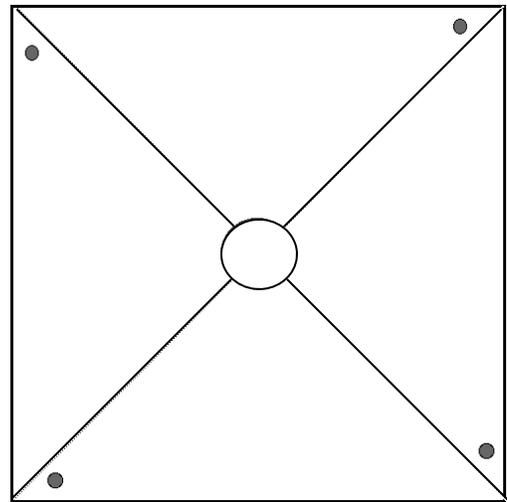
Pinwheels

Enlarge the pinwheel pattern and photocopy.

Cut-out the square.

Decorate both sides of the construction paper pinwheel.

Cut the dotted lines from the four corners to the center circle. Try not to cut into the center circle.



Use a sharpened pencil to poke a hole through the four tiny dark circles. The pencil point also works well to poke a hole into the straw. Carefully push the pencil point through the straw about 1/2 inch from the top.

Make the tiny holes on the four points meet at the center circle.

Push the ends of the paper fastener through the holes on the pinwheel. then push the fastener through the center circle.

Place the straw on the back side of your pinwheel and push the ends of the fastener through the hole in the straw. Open-up the fastener by flattening the ends in opposite directions.

Now you are ready to try-out your beautiful pinwheel. All you will need is a little bit of wind to make your pinwheel spin round and round. Have fun!

Make a windsock. Paint and decorate a paper towel tube. Make a hanger with yarn at the top of the tube. Use bright coloured crepe streamers to hang down.

'This is a very simple windsock that my Kindergarten kids make. I buy some large Styrofoam cups and the students decorate them with paint. Then they glue or tape crepe paper strips inside the open edge of the cup. I string a piece of string through a hole in the cup bottom and knot it so they can be hung up. I bring in a fan so the children can see them in the wind and we go outside and run with them fluttering behind.'

To make a wind sock, cut off the bottom of a paper lunch bag. Decorate the bag with glitter paint, neon construction paper, stickers, etc. Then attach crepe paper streamers to one end of the bag. Attach a construction paper handle to the opposite end of the bag.

Rainbows

"I make patterns for six sizes of circles. Each one is 1 inch larger than the last (2 1/2 cm.) - 4", 5", ... to 9". The children trace and cut the largest circle on red paper, the 8" circle on orange, 7" on yellow, 6" on green, 5" on blue and 4" on purple. Once all the circles are cut, the children glue the orange circle in the centre of the red circle, then glue the yellow circle on the orange, next glue the green, then the blue and last the purple in the centre. It will look like target.... When the glue is dry, slice the circles in half with a paper cutter. I cut the purple so it was 1" wide, too, so now each piece is a rainbow shape. Take the two pieces which now look like rainbows and glue their back sides together. Add a loop of string at the top to hang them."



"I like to do an Art lesson in early April/late March in which the students decorate kites. I cut the cartridge paper into the shape of kites and the students decorate them with bright colours and Spring pictures such as bikes, skipping ropes, flowers, bright cheery suns, clouds etc. We usually use pastels for this and I encourage them to press hard and not to leave any white on their kite! Then they attach colourful yarn (with a stapler) and tie pre-cut crepe or tissue paper along the yarn. I put them up on a bulletin board or on classroom windows in a way that looks like they are turning every which way in the wind. The tails of these kites are pinned up to look like they are flying! The students enjoy doing this and already my grade 2 students are asking if we are going to do this again this year! (I try to avoid doing it two years in a row when the class has done it before). Some ask if these will fly but I don't think they will...."

Sun Catcher Kites

Cut diamond shaped kite shapes from construction paper with the centre cut out - 2 each that match one another.

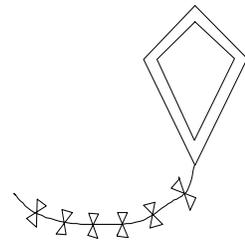
Lay one kite shape on an ironing surface, lay wax paper over it covering it completely. Put crayon shavings on the wax paper in the centre of the kite. Cover with another piece of wax paper and the other construction paper kite shape, matching the shape beneath.

Iron at the lowest temperature until the wax melts.

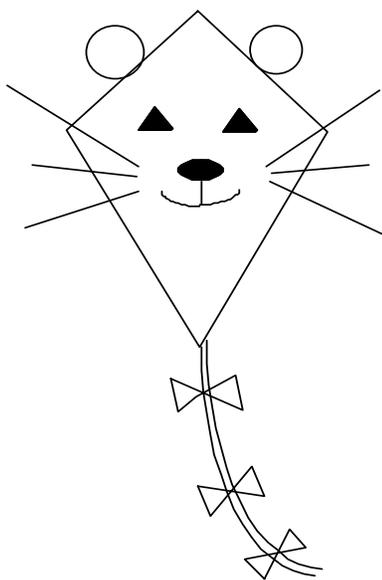
Staple the pieces together carefully. Cut off the wax paper that is protruding.

Attach string for the tail.

Make the bows by cutting small rectangles of different colours of crepe paper. Twist them tightly in the center to make the bow shape. Tie them to the kite tail.



- In the Spring we make wind-mobiles with paper plates
- students decorate one paper plate
- then they glue thin strips of tissue paper to the outside rim of the plate - usually the bottom half
- we hang up the plates and they move so nicely in the breeze.



Make Lion kites for March.