

WINTER TREE ART



Illinois Extension
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

OBJECTIVES

LEARN THE BASIC SHAPES OF TREES. CREATE A WINTER LANDSCAPE USING FOUND TWIGS AND PAINT.

MATERIALS

1 SHEET OF BLUE CARDSTOCK
GLUE
WHITE ACRYLIC PAINT
ASSORTED TWIGS AND STICKS
2 COTTON SWABS

GUIDING QUESTIONS

1. HOW ARE TREES SHAPED?
2. WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENT SHAPES THEY CAN BE?

CONCEPTS

- WHEN TREES LOSE THEIR LEAVES, WE CAN SEE THEIR SHAPE (SKELETON).
- DIFFERENT TYPES (SPECIES) OF TREES HAVE DIFFERENT SHAPES.
- TREES HAVE 4 MAIN PARTS.

FACTS

- TREES HAVE FOUR MAIN PARTS:
 - ROOTS - TAKE UP NUTRIENTS (MINERALS) AND WATER FROM THE SOIL FOR THE TREE.
 - TRUNK - PROVIDES SUPPORT FOR ALL OF THE TREE PARTS, AND STORES AND TRANSPORTS FOOD AND WATER TO ALL OF THE OTHER PARTS OF THE TREE.
 - BRANCHES - DISTRIBUTES THE LEAVES IN THE AIR EVENLY. THEY GROW AT DIFFERENT POSITIONS SO THAT LEAVES CAN GET THE NECESSARY AIR AND SUNSHINE.
 - LEAVES OR NEEDLES - THEY ARE THE FOOD FACTORIES FOR A TREE. THEY PRODUCE FOOD FOR THE TREE DURING PHOTOSYNTHESIS.
- TREES GIVE US FOOD, OXYGEN TO BREATHE, AND WOOD FOR BUILDING OUR HOMES.



INTEREST APPROACH-ENGAGEMENT

AS YOU TAKE YOUR WALK:

- TALK ABOUT THE WINTER LANDSCAPE.
- HOW IS IT DIFFERENT FROM SUMMER? WHAT IS MISSING? WHAT IS THE SAME?
- WHY DO YOU THINK TREES LOSE THEIR LEAVES? KIDS MAY HAVE ALREADY LEARNED THE REASONS IN SCHOOL. AT ANY RATE, IT'S FUN TO HEAR THEIR ANSWERS.

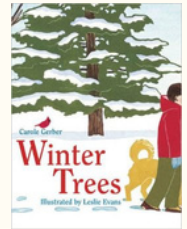


ACTIVITY 1: OUTSIDE EXPLORATION

- GO OUTSIDE AND EXPLORE. OBSERVE HOW THE TREES ARE SHAPED. DO THEY LOOK LIKE A TRIANGLE? A CIRCLE? SOMETHING IN BETWEEN?
- TALK ABOUT THE PARTS OF A TREE. (SEE FACT SECTION)
- PICK UP SMALL STICKS AND TWIGS TO USE IN THE ART PROJECT. (SMALL THIN TWIGS WORK BEST)
- LOOK AT THE BARK OF THE TREES, FEEL IT. IS IT SMOOTH OR ROUGH? WHAT COLOR IS IT?

ACTIVITY 2: WINTER TREE ART

- READ OR WATCH THE VIDEO OF THE BOOK "WINTER TREES" BY CAROLE GERBER. [HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH?V=KQ5XBR69B3M](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KQ5XBR69B3M)
- USING THE BOOK AS INSPIRATION, GLUE YOUR COLLECTED TWIGS AND STICKS TO THE BLUE CARDSTOCK IN THE SHAPE OF A TREE USING ONE OF THE COTTON SWABS TO SPREAD THE GLUE ON YOUR TWIGS.
- ALLOW THE TWIGS AND GLUE TO DRY THOROUGHLY BEFORE GOING TO NEXT STEP.
- **TIP:** LOOK FOR THE FLATEST SIDE OF THE STICK TO PUT THE GLUE ON. IT WILL STICK BETTER.
- WHILE IT IS DRYING ASK KIDS ABOUT THE SHAPE THEY CHOSE AND WHY THEY CHOSE THAT ONE. DOES IT REMIND THEM OF THEIR FAVORITE TREE? DO THEY HAVE A FAVORITE TREE? IF SO, WHERE IS THE TREE LOCATED AND WHAT MAKES IT SPECIAL?
- AFTER THE STICKS ARE DRY, USE THE REMAINING COTTON SWAB TO ADD SNOW TO THE PICTURE. IS IT ACTIVELY SNOWING? ARE THERE SNOWFLAKES COMING DOWN OR BIG PILES OF SNOW ON THE GROUND? ALLOW STUDENTS TO CREATE THEIR WINTER WONDERLAND.



TIPS FOR WORKING WITH ACRYLIC PAINT

- PROTECT YOUR WORK SURFACE, FLOOR SURFACE, AND KID. ACRYLIC PAINT DRIES QUICKLY AND IS PERMANENT ONCE IT'S DRY. NEWSPAPER, PLASTIC TABLECLOTHS AND OLD CLOTHES ARE GREAT TO USE. IF PAINT GETS ON SOMETHING YOU WOULD RATHER IT DIDN'T, CLEAN IMMEDIATELY WITH SOAP AND WATER BEFORE IT DRIES.
- LAY SOME GROUND RULES. BEFORE STARTING, TALK TO YOUR KIDS ABOUT HOW ACRYLIC PAINT IS PERMANENT AND THEY NEED TO BE CAREFUL TO KEEP THE PAINT ON THE CANVAS AND IN THE WORK AREA.
- TO CLEAN UP, JUST THROW THE COTTON SWABS AWAY. PUT LIDS ON THE PAINT AND GLUE CONTAINERS AND DISPOSE OF THEM IN THE TRASH. WASH HANDS WITH SOAP AND WATER.

NOTE ABOUT "WINTER TREES" BY CAROLE GERBER: SELECTED FOR THE 2008 JOHN BURROUGHS YOUNG READERS LIST. SELECTED AS A NSTA/CBC OUTSTANDING TRADEBOOK FOR 2009. (NATIONAL SCIENCE TEACHER ASSOCIATION)



LESSON PLAN CREATED BY WENDY FERGUSON, PROGRAM COORDINATOR