

CLAY, COFFEE, & CREATIVITY

Use your senses to explore the different properties of natural materials as you paint with coffee, mud, and clay!

Big Idea

Students will paint with nature, using materials that have the potential to be an elastic, smooth, gritty and more! The experience will encourage students to describe attributes of different materials, which is a great early math skill!

Standards

IELDS 7.A.ECa Compare, order, and describe objects according to a single attribute.	Students will compare and describe the paints to discover which is the bumpiest vs. smoothest, and lightest vs. darkest.
CCSS.MATH.CONTENT.K.MD.A.2 Directly compare two objects with a measurable attribute in common, to see which object has "more of"/"less of" the attribute, and describe the difference	Students will compare and describe the paints to discover which is the smoothest, darkest, lightest and more.
VA:Cn10.1.Pka Explore the world using descriptive and expressive words and art-making.	Students will explore the different paints from the earth and use expressive words to describe their experience while making art.

Materials

- Clay Slip (Made from clay and water)
- Coffee Paint (Made from coffee grounds and water)
- Mud Paint (made from dirt and water. Tip: mud with sticks and stones can add interesting shapes and textures!)
- Paint brushes
- 12 X18 Sulphite paper
- Newspaper

Setup

Create the three different kinds of paint and place brushes with each paint. Cover table or easels with newspaper.

Directions

1. Encourage students to use their different senses to describe the paint before painting. What does it smell like? What does it look like?
2. As students begin painting, talk with them about what they see and how the paint feels.

3. Once a student is done their painting can be put to dry. As the paintings dry they can take on new colors and textures, so make sure to revisit them when their dry.

Investigation Questions: How do the different natural paints look, smell, and feel? Notice the slight color and texture variations? How are they similar? How are they different? Which paint would give you the darkest color? Which has the lightest? Can you make a new color? Which one do you enjoy painting with the most? What do you like about that paint? What shapes and textures do you see? Are the paints rough, bumpy, smooth, thick, etc.?

Related Artist: Yusuke Asai is a painter in Kumamoto, Japan, who uses materials from the earth as a medium. <http://www.ricegallery.org/yusuke-asai/>