

APRIL: Earth Day Organic Collage

Art Appreciation with Indian Mandalas

Essential Question: How can I celebrate Earth Day with organic materials?



Supplies Needed	Art Vocabulary:	Learning Targets:	Meets WA Learning Standard:
Organic materials (like leaves, flowers, rocks, sticks, grass, etc)	Pattern	Students will understand what a mandala is.	VA:Cr2.3.K
8" circle of paper (or larger)	Radial Symmetry	Students will be able to create a mandala with natural/found objects.	
pencil			
ruler			
Glue or Mod Podge (optional)			

Instructions:

- Introducing the theme of a Manadala, ask students:
 - Do you know what a mandala is? How are they made? What are they made with? Who makes them?
 - What is radial symmetry? How do you know if something is symmetric?
- You can learn more about Manadalas and Radial Symmetry in a 2 min video [here](#).
- Give each student a full piece of paper* and ask them to draw a large circle. You can teach them how to do this with a compass, a pencil taped to string, or have them trace a large circle like a paper plate.
- Using a ruler or straight edge, divide** the circle up into several 'pieces'
- Next, go outside with your students and instruct them to collect leaves, sticks, wood chips, grass, flowers, etc. If this isn't an option, you can bring organic materials to the classroom (including cheerios, seeds, oats, beans, etc)
- Show students how to create a pattern by repeating the same size of an organic material in each of the shapes of the circle. Have students repeat this until the mandala is complete.

Pro Tips For Success:

- Consider the age and ability of your students and the amount of time you want to dedicate to this project
 - *younger students can have larger and fewer 'pieces' to fill up
 - **the size of the circle and paper will determine how long it will take to complete
- This project can be temporal or permanent. You could just spend time outside and have kids make mandalas and leave them outside (you might skip the step using paper circles). If you want to keep these, you can have students fill their circle with liquid glue before they place their organic elements. Once the glue is dry, to seal them, you can brush the tops with Mod Podge.
- To challenge older students, give them a required number of 'pieces' in their circle or limit the size of the organic materials used.
- When students are finished, you can also challenge them to take away an element or move an element to get a completely different mandala.

