



Objective

The objective is to encourage recycling of paper as a creative as well as ecological activity.

Materials

Blender	(available at hardware store)
Kitchen size garbage bag of waste paper (no glossy magazines)	Sponges
	Acrylic Paint
	Plastic spoons
2 five gallon buckets	Plastic sandwich bags
large stainless steel mesh strainer	Paper cups
bamboo skewers	Paper towels
Clay (mix from recipe)	Newspapers
	Plastic sheeting
Johnson's Paste-wax	5 gallons of water

Preparation Session 1

1. Mix enough clay from recipe for each child to make a 4" X 4" x 1" tile.
2. Pack clay in plastic sandwich bags for storage.
3. Lay newsprint out over work surfaces.

Preparation Session 2

1. Bake tiles according to recipe instructions.
2. Pre-prepare some pulp for demonstration.

Activity Session 1

1. Pass out bags of clay – 1 for each child.
2. Instruct the children to form a 4" X 4" X 1" tile.
3. After the children have formed their tiles they should begin forming a bas relief sculpture of their choosing on the surface of the tile. They can use the skewers and spoons to add detail. The instructors should make sure there are no undercut or it will be difficult to lift the cast in the next session.

At the end of the session the instructor will collect all the tiles to bake-dry at home for the next session.

Activity Session 2

1. Explain to the children that they will be making paper casts of the molds they made during the last session.
2. Have the children tear the waste paper into very small pieces.
3. Demonstrate how to make the pulp from the waste paper scraps by adding a handful of scraps to 1 1/2 cups (or more) of water in the blender. Put the lid on and run the blender for about 20 – 30 seconds. The blender blades will macerate the paper scraps.
4. Pour pulp through the strainer and store pulp in second 5-gallon bucket. Discard old water.
5. Continue making pulp until there is about 2 cups of pulp for each child. The pulp should be the consistency of oatmeal. Strain extra water if too soupy. Add water if too dry.
6. After the pulp is made lay plastic sheeting out on work surfaces.
7. Each child should claim his or her tile and rub Johnson's paste-wax into the surface. The wax should be applied generously but it should not be gloppy. The wax is the releasing agent for the mold.
8. The children should then start pouring pulp over their molds with the paper cups. There will be a lot of water – be sure to mop it up if you are inside.

9. After the mold is well covered each child should soak extra water out of the pulp with a sponge by pressing the wrung out sponge onto the pulp over the mold. Pressing the sponge into the pulp does two things: 1. It soaks up extra water and 2. It pushes the pulp further into the mold thereby causing the paper pulp to capture more detail when it dries.
10. After the students have removed as much water as possible the instructors should find a warm dry place for the paper molds to dry in place on the clay molds. It will take 4 – 5 days for the molds to dry completely.

Activity Session 3

1. If paper is dry each student should gently pry the paper cast off of the mold.
2. Students should now use the acrylic paints to further embellish and decorate their casts. Students may also paint their clay tile molds if they wish.

Discussion

Start a discussion with students about recycling. Ask the students what kinds of things are recycled.

What material has been recycled longer than any other? (Paper)

Who invented paper?
(The Chinese circa 500-600AD)

What kinds of things can be made with recycled paper?
(More paper, bricks, boxes, etc.)

What is paper made of?
(Plant fibers such as cotton, linen, mulberry, banana leaves, etc. – Just about any kind of plant fiber. Some suit better than others do because they have longer fibers).

Bake Dry Clay

- 2 cups flour
- 1 cup salt
- 1 cup cold water
- large bowl, measuring cups, spoon

Mix flour, water, and salt together in the bowl, then knead them until smooth. Add more flour if the dough seems sticky, or more water if it seems dry. The clay should be workable and not flaky.

After sculpting bake the clay in the oven at 275 degrees on an ungreased cookie sheet until hardened. This takes up to 1 hour or more, depending on the thickness of the project.

