



Kinder Garden

Lee Hornbrook

I am always looking for new ideas for lessons for my art classes, or for a new twist on a tried and true idea. If a lesson is successful, I will gladly do it again, but even great lessons can become stale and outdated. If a lesson isn't successful, I try to change it or never do it again. I even like to change the good ones at times.

Recently, I saw a lesson plan for creating a family tree with self-portraits. It was a real hit when I did it, but I wanted to do something equally as exciting the next year without repeating myself.

I did some brainstorming—portraits, self-portraits, family trees, growing things, gardening, etc. Then the light bulb came on—a garden, a kinder garden!

I had students do self-portraits, make them into flowers, and plant them in mini-gardens. They thought it was great, and they really enjoyed the pun, too. Students took their joke home and I heard back from parents

how much their children enjoyed telling them their “art joke.”

Students were excited throughout the assignment and were very proud of the finished product. They made sure that their parents went to see their garden on display in our annual art show. Now I'm faced with coming up with a new idea for this year!

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Here's How We Did It:

1. I explained portraits/self-portraits.
2. Students practiced drawing portraits.
3. I gave each student ovals pre-cut from unwaxed paper plates.
4. Students drew facial features on their paper plates and colored them.
5. Students next used scrap paper to add hair and other details.
6. Students each received a paper plate with a scalloped edge drawn on it. This was to be their flower. They cut it out and colored it.
7. Students glued the finished portrait onto the flower.
8. We glued a craft stick onto the flower as the stem.

9. After filling several large planter drip bases with Styrofoam discs, we “planted” our flowers creating a kinder garden, adding a few vines and leaves to complete the arrangement. 🌱

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NATIONAL STANDARD

Students explore and understand perspective content for works of art.

WEB LINK

www.stpaulncanton.org/Art/teacher-art.html

Materials

- non-waxed paper plates
- pencils and erasers
- crayons
- yarn
- glue
- craft sticks
- Styrofoam discs, about 12" (30 cm) circumference
- plastic drip trays for pots, about 18" (46 cm) circumference
- scrap construction paper