

Garden Stones



Goals

Students will discover that simple ingredients can be mixed to create a lasting art piece for the garden.

Objectives

Students will create decorative stepping-stones for the garden.

Materials

- Paper and pencils
- Old mixing bucket
- Concrete mix and water
- Several old tin pie pans
- Decorative stones
- Decorative glass pieces
- Paint and paint brushes

Time: 40 minutes

Introduction (5 min)

Pair students and give each pair a piece of paper and their share of decorative stones and glass pieces. Have students trace the pie pan on their paper and then plan a design for their stepping stone on the paper with the decorative stones and glass.

Activity Steps (30 min)

1. Mix the concrete according to the package directions in a mixing bucket or wheelbarrow.
2. Help students pour the concrete into the pie pans.
3. Have students insert their stones and glass pieces into the wet concrete mix, using their planned design as a guide. You can also use acrylic paints, or little hands to make prints or patterns in the garden stone instead of or in addition to the stones and glass.
4. As students work on their designs, wash the concrete mixing bucket before it dries.
5. Have students wash their hands after touching the concrete mixture.
6. Put the stones in a safe place where they can be allowed to dry for at least 24 hours.
7. When the mosaic stone is almost solid (up to one day) remove it from the pie pan and let it cure the rest of the way in the sun.
8. Once the stones are completely dry, let students place their creations in special places in the garden or take it home as a unique gift.

Conclusion (5 min)

Hold an art walk. Have students walk through the garden and admire their creations. Encourage students to praise each other for their stones.

Possible Extensions

Plan a community event around mosaic crafts. Give participants the materials to make their own design and combine the projects into garden structures such as living fence posts, welcome signs, stepping stones for a community plot, etc.

Notes
