



## Artist's Palette

### Election Day

Election Day is every two years on the first Tuesday after the first Monday of November. Voting is how the citizens of the United States let the government know what they are thinking and what they want. Inspiring young people to take the right to vote seriously when they are of age is something we should strive to do. Consider having many opportunities for the youth in your program to vote and then discuss how this is an opportunity to share what they are thinking and what they desire.



#### What you will need:

- Red, white, and blue construction paper
- Fine tip markers in black, red, and blue (you could use colored pencils if you don't have Sharpie fine tip markers—remember Sharpie is not washable)
- Glue sticks
- Safety pin so they can wear the badge if they would like to

#### What you will do:

1. Bring children together and share with them information about Election Day and why it is important.
2. Brainstorm reasons to vote and write them on a chart
3. Distribute 3 sticky dots of any color to every child and have them vote for the reason(s) they believe make the most sense about voting. They stick 1-3 dots on the responses they believe in.
4. Divide youth into groups of 3-4 and distribute the supplies
5. Explain they are going to make a “badge” which share they just voted and are a future voter
6. Share they can make the “badge” any way they would like to (you can show them the picture if you want, but encourage them to be creative).
7. When finished, have youth share the badge with peers

#### Debriefing Questions

- What did you enjoy about this project?
- What advice would you give another youth doing this project?
- How might you use this technique to make something else?



## Artist's Palette

### Veteran's Day

Veteran's Day is celebrated on November 11 each year. This day was selected because it was in the eleventh month, on the eleventh day, at eleven o'clock that World War I was ended in 1918. In the beginning it was called Armistice Day. In 1954, President Eisenhower made Veteran's Day official and this day was set aside to honor ALL Veterans from every war the United States has been a part of.



#### What you will need:

- White construction paper
- Red, white and blue paint (acrylic or tempera) or water colors
- Brushes
- Pencils
- Cups with water
- Black marker

#### What you will do:

1. Share with the youth the information about Veteran's Day. Ask them if they know a Veteran and if so, how they know them. (Could be a relative, a neighbor, someone in a store they go to...)
2. Explain they are going to make a collage using paint. Explain they will divide the construction paper into four quadrants (one hot dog and one hamburger fold) In the center of each of the quadrants, with a pencil, they should draw the outline of a heart (lightly)
3. Then extending from the heart, they will draw lines which go to the edge of the quadrant. They can make a few lines or many-that is up to them. Explain that each space between the lines will need to be painted slightly differently from the other spaces.
4. Brainstorm the different thing they could do in these spaces (solid color, stripes, dots, snowflakes, flowers, wavy lines....)
5. Distribute the supplies (not the paint) and have them create the collage. When finished, distribute the paint (be sure to distribute water to wash brushes and paper towels to dry them)
6. Have youth create their collage and set to dry.
7. When dry, have youth share with their peers.

#### Debrief:

- What did you learn from this activity?
- Where else might you see this artistic strategy or technique?
- Would you recommend this project to someone else?



## Artist's Palette

### National Peanut Butter Month

Did you know November is National Peanut Butter Lovers Month? It is definitely a unique month for people who love peanut butter. If you adore peanut butter, you'll be happy to know that there's an entire month dedicated to our love! So if you are a fan of the yummy, protein-packed peanut butter like us, here are a few peanut butter and peanut facts:

- Peanut butter has been a beloved item in pantries nationwide and can be used in almost everything.
- The history of peanuts is a journey from South America, to Asia, east across the Atlantic Ocean and back again to North America.
- Peanut butter was first introduced at the St. Louis World's Fair in 1904 and became a source of delicious protein during the first two world wars.
- Peanuts grow underneath the ground much like potatoes do.



#### What you will need:

- White paper plate
- Green and tan construction paper
- Black yarn
- Blue and brown tempera paint
- Brushes
- Scissors
- Glue sticks
- Colored pencils or crayons

#### What you will do:

1. Share the information about National Peanut Butter Lovers Month. Discuss peanuts and also discuss that there are a number of people who have peanut allergies, so everyone should be careful
2. Explain they are going to make a "Peanut Plant" in honor of this month's designation
3. Share how they will create the project, beginning with creating the background on the plate—the blue for the sky and the brown for the ground.
4. While the plate is drying, have youth make the peanuts (they really look like a giant number "8", with a wider middle), and then create the hash tagging to look like the shell. Explain they will also cut out the stem and the leaves of the peanut plant



### **Artist's Palette**

5. When the background is dry, assemble the peanuts and the plant and then weave and glue the black yarn to show the root system of the peanuts.
6. When finished, have youth share with their peers.

#### **Debrief:**

- What did you learn from this activity?
- Where else might you see this artistic strategy or technique?
- Would you recommend this project to someone else?



## Artist's Palette

### National Native American Heritage Month

November is Native American Heritage Month, or as it is commonly referred to, American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month.

The month is a time to celebrate rich and diverse cultures, traditions, and histories and to acknowledge the important contributions of Native people. Heritage Month is also an opportune time to educate people about tribes, raise a general awareness about the unique challenges Native people have faced both historically and in the present, and the ways in which tribal citizens have worked to conquer these challenges. This art project honors the rich colors and importance of utilizing natural things in the art.



#### What you will need:

- Paper plate for each youth
- Colored pencils, crayons
- Yarn of various colors
- Feathers and pony beads of various colors
- Scissors
- Hole punch and hole reinforcement stickers
- Glue

#### What you will do:

1. Bring youth together and discuss American Indian Heritage Month. Discuss the importance of learning from Native Americans and other cultures which are different from our own.
2. Divide the youth into groups of 3-4 and distribute the supplies.
3. Explain they will be creating a Native American piece of art, perhaps known as a suncatcher
4. Have them cut out the center of the plate. Have them create a design that is repeated around the frame of the plate. It should be a repetitive design which covers the entire plate frame.
5. Youth should determine how many touch points they want for the design of yarn they are going to make in the center of the plate. Using the hole punch, they will make hole around the inside of the frame. You are encouraged to reinforce those holes with "hole reinforcement stickers from Avery.
6. String the yarn through the holes in the design you desire
7. Add beads and feathers to the ends of the strings
8. Share with your friends what you've made

#### Debrief:

- What did you learn from this activity?
- Where else might you see this artistic strategy or technique?
- Would you recommend this project to someone else?



## Artist's Palette

### National Native American Heritage Month

Native Americans utilized all parts of the animals they had for food, this included the hide or skin of the animal. This activity is going to simulate the use of the animal skin to create a drawing representing something important to the culture. In the sample to the right, you can see the sun, the insets, the moon and stars, animal tracks and of course the homes of the people. This could have included others drawings, maybe telling a story of a bear or buffalo hunt, or traveling on a long journey, or celebrating a particular feast. The shape of the “animal hide” that was used (its really paper), shows the animals legs and tail.



#### What you will need:

- Tan, gray or yellow construction paper. You could also use a large, brown paper bag
- Colored pencils, crayons, and/or oil pastels, or you could use paint.
- Black medium tip marker for outlining

#### What you will do:

1. Bring youth together and share the information about Native American Heritage Month. Discuss the project you did with the suncatcher.
2. Explain that the project is going to be sharing the Native American story with pictures. Explain Native Americans used the hides of animals, cave walls, and tree bark to share their stories.
3. Explain they are going to utilize paper to create something that looks like an animal hide. To do this they will follow these steps:
  - a. Cut the shape of an animal hide—try to trim off as little of the paper as possible
  - b. Crunch up the paper and roll it around, rub it in your hands, stomp on it, ring it out, make it look as rugged as possible
  - c. Tear some of the edge of your hide
4. Draw pictures, using the mediums which have been provided. Tell a story with your drawings
5. When finished, share your “hide” and story with others.

#### Debriefing Questions

- What did you enjoy about this project?
- What advice would you give another youth doing this project?
- How might you use this technique to make something else?



## Artist's Palette

### I Am Thankful...

The first Thanksgiving was celebrated in 1621 over a three-day harvest festival. It included 50 Pilgrims, 90 Wampanoag Indians, and lasted three days. It is believed by historians that only five women were present. Turkey wasn't on the menu at the first Thanksgiving. While President George Washington declared Thanksgiving a national holiday in 1761, it only began being celebrated annually in 1863 with the help of President Lincoln. Bringing friends and family together once a year, Thanksgiving is a day to be thankful and appreciative.



#### What you will need:

- Orange construction paper cut into 1" strips (8 strips per pumpkin)
- Paper and pencil
- Black, fine point marker
- Green construction paper for leaves
- Glue sticks (stapler might also be helpful)

#### What you will do:

1. Bring youth together and ask what they know about the First Thanksgiving. Ask them what it means to be grateful. Ask what the Pilgrims would have been grateful for. Ask them what they are grateful for.
2. Explain they are going to make eight (8) I am thankful for... statements. Have them write or draw those on the copy paper.
3. When they are sure what they will write or draw, distribute the orange strips and have them transfer to the strips. They can use the pencil or the fine point marker
4. Arrange the strips, words down, so you have a circle, with the strips crossing at the center. This will be the bottom of the pumpkin. Staple or glue stick the pieces together, making about a 1" overlap. Glue first, north-south spoke; the east west spokes, the spokes which go in between—northeast to southwest, and northwest to southeast.
5. When stapled or the glue is dry, repeat the process to create the top of the pumpkin.
6. Gently add the pumpkin leaves and runners
7. When complete, have youth share with others.



## **Artist's Palette**

### **Debriefing Questions**

- What did you enjoy about this project?
- What advice would you give another youth doing this project?
- How might you use this technique to make something else?





## Artist's Palette

### Thanksgiving Art

This Thanksgiving project might be easier for younger children than the pumpkin. Since Bradford wrote of how the colonists had hunted wild turkeys during the autumn of 1621 and since turkey is a uniquely American (and scrumptious) bird, it gained traction as the Thanksgiving meal of choice for Americans after Lincoln declared Thanksgiving a national holiday in 1863.

#### What you will need:

- Paper plate for each youth
- Brown, orange, red, yellow paint
- Scraps of yellow, red, and white construction paper
- 1" foam brush
- Scissors
- Glue sticks and/or glue
- Wiggle eyes



#### What you will do:

1. Bring youth together and share information about when turkey became the popular Thanksgiving entrée
2. Share that they are going to make a turkey using a paper plate
3. Demonstrate how they will paint the center of the plate with brown paint and that this will be done first.
4. Then show them how the edge of the paper plate will represent the turkey's feathers of red, orange, brown, and yellow. Demonstrate how each "feather" is about the width of the paint brush they will be using. Explain this will be done AFTER the center is painted
5. When the paint has dried, discuss how they will add the yellow beak, the red waddle, the white circles for the eyes and then the wiggly eyes in the middle.
6. When finished, have them share with others.

#### Debrief:

- What did you learn from this activity?
- Where else might you see this artistic strategy or technique?
- Would you recommend this project to someone else?



## Artist's Palette

On this page you will find different Native American Projects and Thanksgiving Projects you might want to do with your youth.

