

Creative with Colors



Overview

Did you know that people have been using natural materials like plants to make dyes for thousands of years? What colors are available here at the Arboretum? In this adventure, we'll use colors from the Arboretum to create a work of art!

Gear

- White Paper (you can use the back of this sheet!)
- Camera (optional)

Step 1

What colors are available in different areas of the Arboretum? Let's go on a color hunt along Azalea Way - what kind of colors do you find? Use a camera to take photos of at least 3 different colors you notice.

Pro tip: Don't have a camera? Frame the shot with your hands and take a "mental snapshot"!

Step 2

Once you have taken your three photos (or mental snapshots), let's get harvesting! Collect 5 different items from along the trail that you want to turn into paint. Items might include: grass, leaves, mud, flower petals, fruit, etc.

Consider how you might break down the item. Can you crush it easily with your hands? Do you need some rocks to help smush it up?

***Pro tip:** Talk to your adult about which items are safe to collect, and would be least damaging to the plants at the Arboretum. Try out the 3Ds activity for some ideas!*

Step 3

Crush up the materials using your hands or some rocks and apply them directly to the paper by smearing them across it. Make sure you're smushing them enough to release any liquids that may be inside of them.

Step 4

Create a work of art using your new dyes! How do the colors look different on your paper than they did before you harvested them?

Share your artwork with your adult!

***Take it home:** What materials exist where you live that could be used to paint?*