

Activity: Henna Art

Curricular Connections: Grade 1 and Two Art - Painting; Grade 1 Science - Creating Colour

Materials:

- Watercolour paper
- Masking Tape
- Wooden board (or something to the equivalent)
- Primary colours in Tempera Paint - Red, Blue, Yellow
- Water pots (recycled single serving yogurt containers)
- Paint brushes - medium and small detail brush
- Paint tray (margarine lids)

Procedure:

Part One

1. Tape the watercolour paper to the board using masking tape so it does not lift when it is wet.
2. In a small pot of water (single serving yogurt containers work great) add a few drops of tempera paint.
3. Spread the wash over the entire watercolour paper.
4. Let it dry for 10 - 15 minutes.
5. While it dries, teach the children a few simple designs.
 - Keep in mind the use of flowing lines.
 - You could find patterns in a Zentangle book, or you could search Google for Mehndi or Henna designs. (Mehndi means Henna; it's one and the same.)
6. Develop the idea of lines, brush stroke, direction, curvature, thick and thin, etc.
7. Have the students practice in their sketch books with a pencil.

Part Two

8. On paint trays, pour a dollop of the same colour tempera paint that you used for the wash.
9. Do not add water to the tempera paint. It should be thick and rich in colour.
10. Use a small detail brush to recreate the design.

Tip: After elections, the candidates throw out the signs they used for campaigning. You can call one of the local candidates and see if it is possible to have enough signs per student in your class. You then flip them over and use them as art boards to tape watercolour paper onto, or whatever else you may need.

Other possible resources:

<http://www.letscreatecrafts.com/printable-mehndi-design-book/>