PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Use crayons to borrow texture directly from surfaces near your home. Bark, leaves, fences, and more can all be sources for patterns and designs.

RECOMMENDED AGE/SKILL LEVEL:

Recommended for 3+ with adult supervision for oven use.

MATERIALS

• Crayons (optional: melted rainbow crayons. See instructions below.)
• Thin, light-colored paper (plain newsprint or printer paper works great)
• OPTIONAL: scissors, glue, piece of thicker paper.

INSTRUCTIONS

• Find textures by doing a short walk around your area, and gathering materials. What will translate to an interesting crayon rubbing? Look for sturdy leaves where you can clearly see the veins of the leaf, and for a variety of textures.
• Choose your crayon colors. Use melted crayons if you have them pre-prepared. If not, remove the paper wrapping from a few of your crayons so that you can use the long side for rubbings.
• Place your leaf or other material under the thin paper. Gently press down on top to hold the material in place.

• Holding your crayon on its side, press gently down and run the crayon across the area where the leaf is. TIP: Try moving the crayon in circular motions.

• Once the shape of the leaf can be seen, continue moving the crayon in smaller motions to define more details. Add in other colors to the same leaf, noticing that the leaf may move slightly. Use one leaf repeatedly, or multiple leaves on the same page.

• For outdoor textures, place your paper on the surface, and gently move the crayon over the paper. Go slowly and carefully if the texture is rough, so that the paper doesn’t rip. Don’t be afraid to let the paper bend with the surface, though!
NATURAL TEXTURES

• To create a full composition, layer multiple textures and colors on the same page. What changes with different colors and composition choices? Which textures work well as background?
• Complete an abstract or patterned composition, and experiment with more colors and shapes!

• OPTIONAL: Cut out shapes from your pages, and arrange them on another piece of paper to make a collage or postcard. Glue down.

MELTED RAINBOW CRAYONS

MATERIALS

• Crayons
• Cupcake cups
• (made from either silicone, coated paper, or foil)
• Baking sheet or muffin tin
INSTRUCTIONS

- Peel the paper off of your crayons.
- Break crayons into small pieces.
- Put cupcake cups into muffin tin, or set them out on a baking sheet.
- Put broken crayon pieces into cupcake cups.
- If it’s a very hot day, set the tray outside in the sun and periodically check to see the crayons melt. If the spot becomes shady, move the crayons to a sunnier spot. Bring inside once crayons are melted. Allow to cool.

OR

- Put the tray into the oven at 230°F for 20 minutes. Remove with oven mitt and let cool.
- Remove melted rainbow crayons from the cupcake cups and use for nature rubbings!

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

CONNECT SOCIALY AND LEARN MORE

Facebook & Instagram: @MuseumofCraftandDesign
Twitter @SF_MCD

Share your project! Post and tag #MCDatHome