

Spring



Pussywillows

Puffy Pussywillows

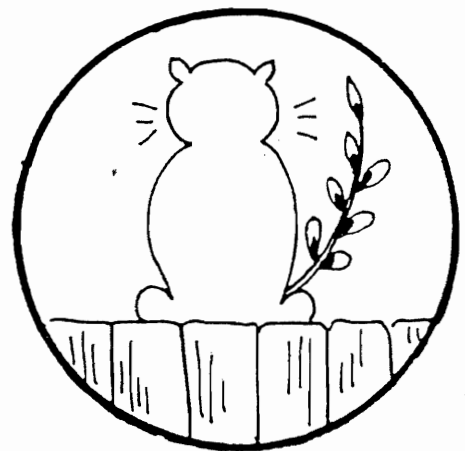
Begin with blue construction paper. Draw the branches with brown wax crayon and then glue on puffed wheat. These are easy and effective.

Blow Paint Pussywillows

Use light blue construction paper for the background. Put a drop of brown paint (about the size of a quarter) at the bottom of the paper. The children use straws to blow the paint - first up for the main branches and then out to make smaller branches. Allow this to dry. Mix fairly thick grey tempera paint. Give each student a small puddle on scrap paper. They dip the end of one finger into the grey paint and make fingerprints along the branches for catkins. Practice the fingerprints before putting the pussywillows on the branches.

Pussywillow Cat Tails

Cut out a cat from black construction paper. The children can fold the paper in half and draw half of the silhouette and then cut the cat out. Glue brown paper over the bottom part of the paper for a fence and glue the cat shape on top. Staple a pussy willow stem for the tail.



"Cats on a Fence"

An old favourite is to have the children draw a picket fence ... Use 1/2 sheet of white 9" x 12" construction paper. Three "wooden posts" are drawn vertically approximately 3" apart, followed by two or three drawn horizontally to give the appearance of an old wooden fence. Glue five real pussywillows, on the boards and add little triangular ears, three whiskers on each side, and a curvy tail.

Add grass where the posts go into the ground.



A Pussywillow Afternoon

Riddle

Grey like fur
but can't purr.
Soft as silk
but can't drink milk.
What am I?

Write this in the shape of a pussywillow. The answer is covered with a flap so that the students can peek underneath. Then have the children observe actual pussywillow branches and discuss them. Following that, do an art project. On long pieces (approx. 6"x 18") of blue construction paper, children draw a branch using a black crayon. The pussywillows are made using a Q-Tip and white paint.

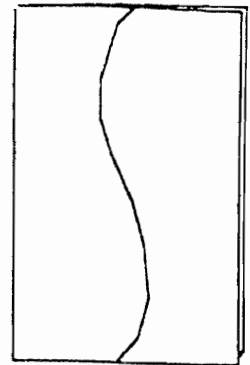
Stamp Pad Pussywillows

When the first pussywillows arrive at school we would always make fingerprint pictures of them. Cut tall vases from folded wall paper. Glue them on 9" x 18" paper. Draw 4 -5 stems that reach up high. After looking closely at real pussywillows the children press ONE finger to a black stamp pad. Use fingerprints to make the buds up each stem. They look fuzzy if the ink pad isn't too wet.

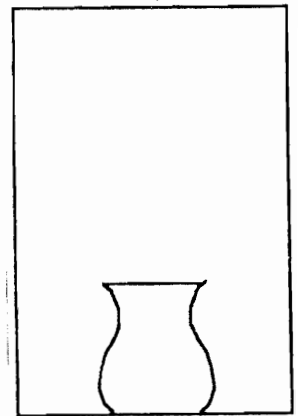
Spring Pussywillows

This is a favourite spring art project of mine.

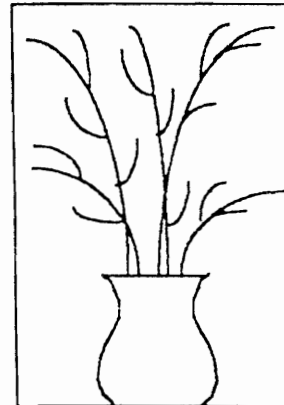
1. First, give each child half a sheet of white photocopy paper (8 1/2" x 5 1/2"). They fold it in half the 'fat' way. With the paper on the desk the way that a book opens, they draw an elongated "S" from the top of the paper to the bottom. Cut this out to form a vase. Decorate the vase with scribble drawing coloured brightly, or the vase can be cut from coloured paper or fingerpainted paper.



2. Glue the vase at the centre bottom of a piece of 18" x 24" light grey or pale blue construction paper.



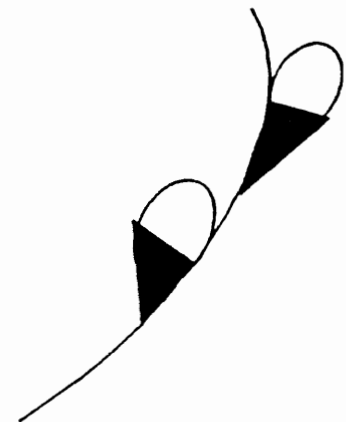
3. Each child draws what you illustrate using a brown crayon. Begin each line near the edge of the paper and curve it into the vase. Make five lines - two from the top corners, two lower, and one curved from the centre top. Now the children make side branches (not too many - 2 or 3 for each long branch) by starting the crayon lines on the main branch and going up and outward towards the edge of the paper.



4. Make the pussy willow pockets. With the brown crayon, draw a 1/2" long line (no longer) from the branch out at a right angle. Now angle the line down and back to the branch. Colour it in solid brown.



5. Give each child a piece of white chalk. Beginning at the top of the paper so the chalk won't smear, make a white chalk egg shape in each pussy willow pocket.

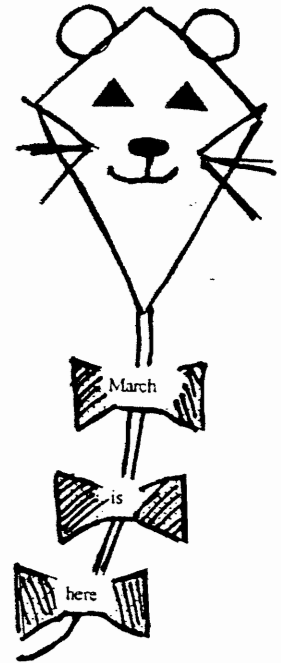


Kites



March Lion Kite

Here's a cute March Lion Kite. Make a diamond shape on yellow construction paper and cut it out. Also make 2 circles on yellow paper and glue them to the right and left of the top point of the diamond. (These circles create the ears of the lion). Cut tissue paper (yellow and orange) into 4" x 2" rectangles and glue the ends of the rectangles to the back of the diamond, alternating colours. (This makes the mane of the lion). Attach a 2 foot yellow streamer to the bottom point of the diamond. Make 3 bows on different colours of construction paper, make sure the bows are big enough that the children can write 1 word on each bow. The words are "**March is here**". Attach the bows to the streamer. Using black construction paper create a face for the lion with black triangles for eyes, an oval for the nose (turn it sideways when you glue it on). Use markers to create a mouth (draw 1 line down from the nose and then have it go both ways at the bottom as if the Lion was smiling). Use the marker to add whiskers if you like.



Soaring into Spring

Have the students make paper kites and display them on a blue background. Use sponges to paint the blue paper so it looks like clouds. The students can drop thickened tempera paints on butcher paper, then blow the paint with straws, or use sponges, combs, or droppers to decorate the kites. Tie pieces of material to a string and mount to back of kite.

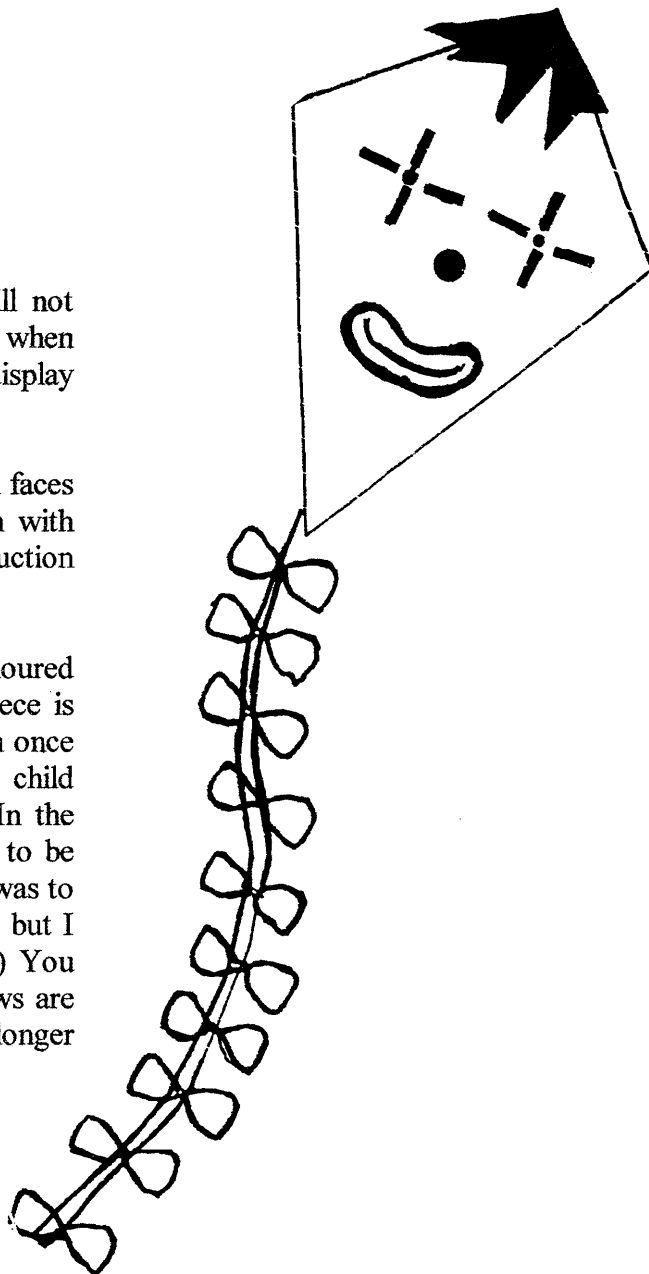


Kites

These kites are simply decorative, but this will not prevent the children from pretending to fly them when they finish the tails! They make a colourful display for the hall or a large tackboard.

The kites may be decorated with flowers, clown faces (as shown) or the children may decorate them with their own designs. Begin with 16" x 24" construction paper.

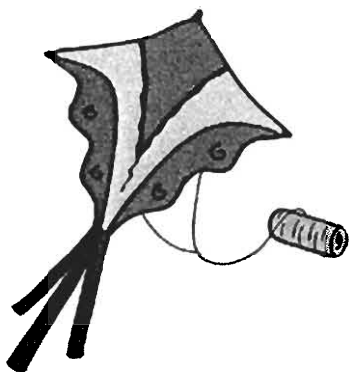
Cut (on the paper cutter) many different coloured crepe paper strips for the tail ribbons. Each piece is approximately 2" x 1/2". The children twist them once in the middle to make a bow shape. Each child receives about one yard of tape for the tail. (In the past I used a brown tape that had to be licked to be sticky. The children licked where the each bow was to go and pressed it on. This was quick and easy, but I am not sure whether this tape is still available.) You could use masking tape, and then when the bows are on, put another length of tape over it so it is no longer sticky.



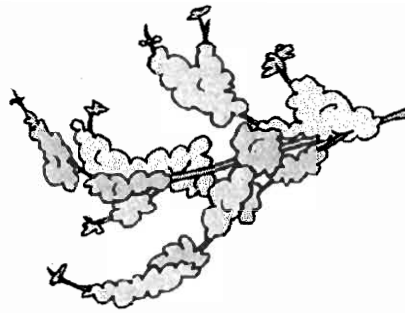
Sun Catcher Kites

Cut cardboard or construction paper into the shape of a kite, cutting out the middle of the kite leaving a border (2 pieces for each child). They can decorate this border. Have the children put crayon shavings onto a piece of wax paper, bigger than the centre of the kite. Then put another sheet of wax paper on top of the crayon shavings. Put newspapers on top of the wax paper and then a towel on top of that. Then with the iron at the lowest possible setting, iron the paper until the crayon shavings melt. Flip the 2 pieces of cardboard over, side by side, so that you see the side that was not decorated. Put glue on the edges of 1 cardboard, and then put the melted wax paper crayon shavings on top of that. Next put the other piece of cardboard on that and trim the edges of the wax paper that are showing.

Now glue a streamer on the bottom and tie bows on it.



Blossoming Trees Flowering Trees



. There are different variations on this project, but my favourite is to have the children paint a tree trunk, using brown paint, on black or dark blue construction paper. Practice this first on scrap paper so their trees look natural. If you have blooming fruit trees near your school you might want to go outside and look at them first. Then when the paint has dried, glue on the pink blossoms, using either cotton balls that you shake in powdered pink tempera paint, or pink popcorn.

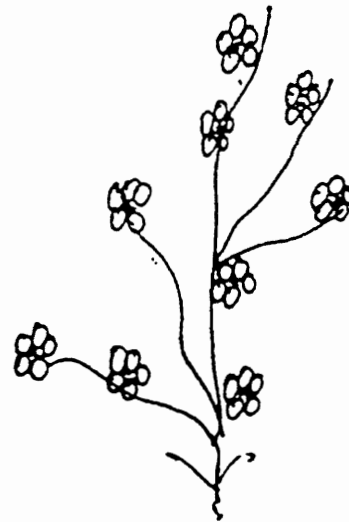
Apple Blossoms

Use popped popcorn for apple blossoms on a bare tree outline. The children could gently dip the popcorn in a small liquid glue puddle and then press it on the tree. This gives a great three dimensional look.

Cherry Blossoms

Use a straw or eye dropper and put a drop of black India ink at the bottom end corner of a piece of 8 ½" x 11" paper. Have the child kneel up to the table and blow through a straw to spray the black ink across the paper like a branch. (If they blow from above you get a big splat). Add another drop and make more branches across the paper.

After the ink or paint is dry give the children 1" square pieces of pink tissue to crumple and glue all over the branches.



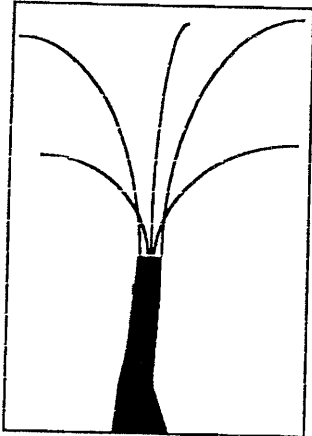
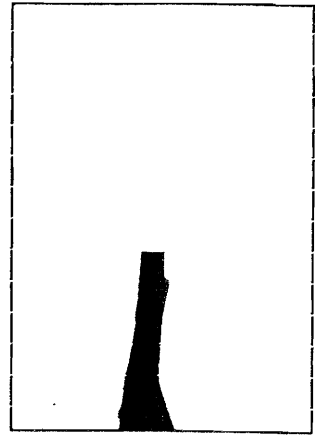
More Cherry Blossoms

Paint a thin brown stem; or use blobs of brown paint and blow with a straw to create thin branches. Let dry. The child dips his fingertip into pink paint to paint five-petaled blossoms along the branches. When the blossoms are dry, use a green felt-pen to fill in the centre of blossoms with small dots.

These look great as banners - long and thin (9" x 24").

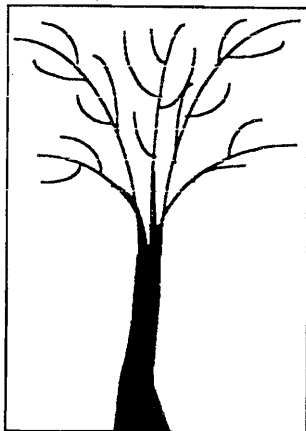
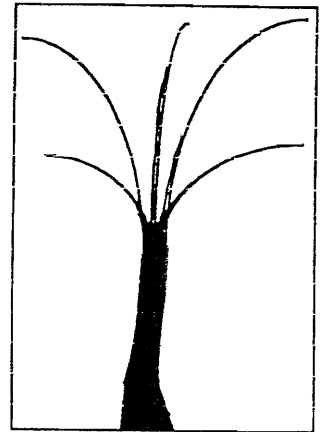
Blooming Trees

On a piece of 9" x 12" paper, draw a trunk with brown wax crayon from the bottom of the paper to about 1/3 of the height and colour it in darkly.



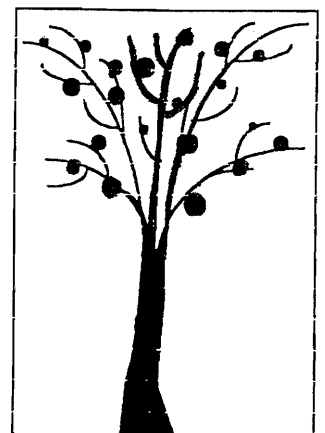
Begin a curved line (with the brown wax crayon) in the top left corner of the paper and end it at the left side of the trunk. Draw a curved line from the top right corner to the right side of the trunk. Draw lines from the left and right sides about 1/3 down the paper, ending in the centre of the trunk. Draw one line from the centre top to the trunk.

Broaden the branches at their base so the horizontal line at the top of the trunk can no longer be seen.



Make smaller side branches by placing the brown crayon on a large branch and drawing a curved line outwards and then in the direction of the large branch.

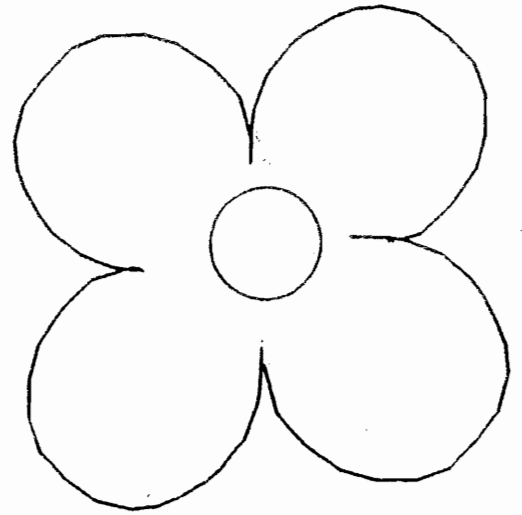
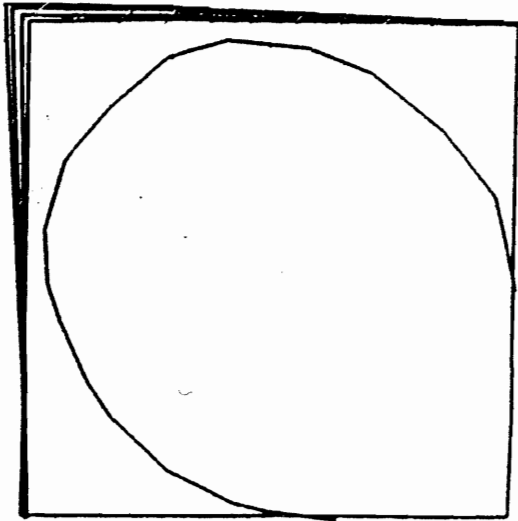
Make flowers on the branches by giving the children small 1" squares of pink or yellow tissue paper and a puddle of liquid glue on a piece of scrap paper. They place the end of a pencil or crayon in the centre of the tissue square, press the edges up against the pencil, gently dip the tissue, still around the pencil end, into the glue puddle and press onto a tree branch. You can also use "apple green" squares for a new leaf effect.



You may also use the tree pattern on the following page, enlarged to the appropriate size.

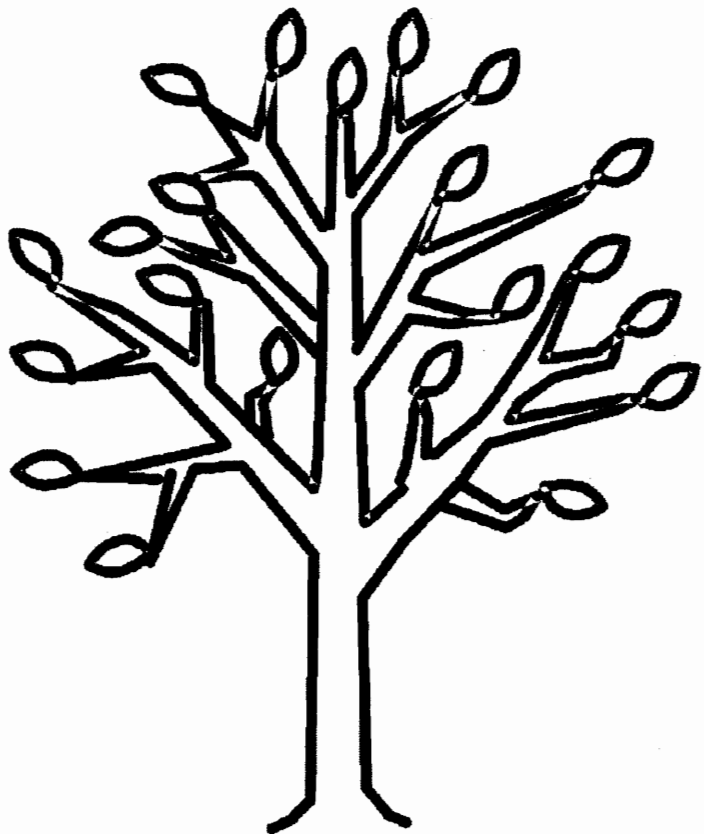
Blossoms

Fold a square twice. Have the children place it on the table with the four corners pointing away from them. Draw and cut the blossom petal shape, being careful not to cut near the centre corner. These look lovely on your "tree for all seasons". especially in pink with a pale yellow centre.



Tree Pattern

This pattern may be used, enlarged to the appropriate size, for many classroom art projects around the year. In the spring you may add tissue blossoms, cut out small pink, white or yellow flowers, green leaves, birds and/or birds' nests, etc.



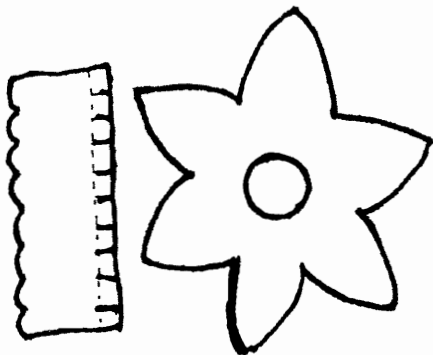
Spring Flowers

Fabulous Flowers

Have each child colour a coffee filter with their water soluble felt pens. (note: put something underneath as the ink runs through). Then spray the coloured filter with water. The colours run together and they dry quite quickly. Pinch them in the centre and put on a small piece of scotch tape then staple them to green vines. You could attach them to pipe cleaners and put in a vase.

Colourful Flower Display

These flowers look like large camellias when finished and make a vivid bulletin board display! Have the children cover large papers with a single colour of finger paint - pink or yellow. They can use their fingers to make large spiral swirls on the paper. When these are dry, cut out the flowers by simply cutting out as large a oval as possible. The children's circles will not be perfect, of course, and this adds to their charm. The flowers look like huge roses. Now fingerpaint large leaf shapes in green and when these are put on stems with the huge bright flowers the bulletin board will be very colourful.



Daffodils

This is a very old, well known art project but it still makes a wonderful border on your bulletin boards. Enlarge the pattern to the size you want and photocopy onto yellow construction paper. Cut out the petals and the frill. Fold back the bottom of the frill and clip up to the fold on the lines to make tabs. Make a cylinder with the frill, with the folded tabs inside. Glue these tabs to the circle on the petal section. Add a stem and long tapered leaves.

More Fabulous Flowers!

Take a marker and make a dot of colour about the size of a nickel. Put several on the page. Then dip a paintbrush in water and use the marker colour as the paint and make petals around this dot. Then draw stems and leaves and wet them too. These are so easy to do and have a watercolour look. You can make vases and have these flowers above them.



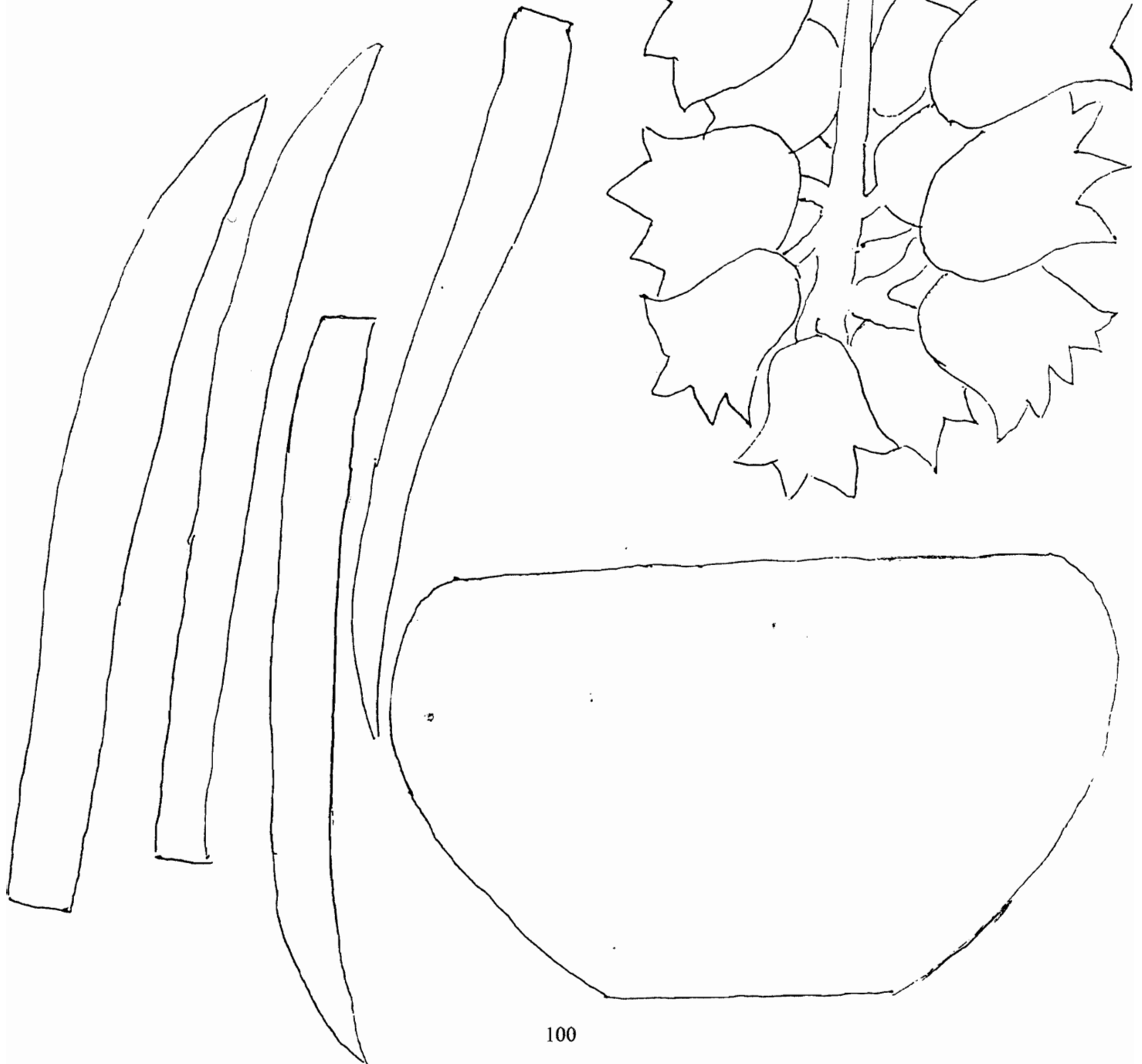
Beautiful Spring Flowers

Colour two muffin cups various colours – they will be the flower head. You might want to make the centres yellow and the outsides a rainbow of flower colours. Cut out leaves and a stem from green construction paper. Glue the leaves and the stem onto a piece of white or pastel paper. Glue the two muffin cups onto the top of the stem, one on top of another to form the flower. Flatten out the bottom cup a bit more than the top cup so you can see the petals you flower will have. You can decorate the paper further by colouring in grass, sky and clouds. You could also use balled up pieces of green tissue paper as grass and cotton balls as clouds. You could also try colouring the cups with pastels, the stem with regular crayons and the sky with watercolour paints.



Hyacinths

The hyacinth flower, leaves and bowl may simply be coloured and assembled, or use the leaves and bowl and the outline of the flower. The flower can be made three dimensional by using tissue paper squares moulded to the end of a pencil or crayon and glued on close together, or by curling small coloured strips around a pencil and placing them close together beginning at the top.





Daisies!

The children may draw and cut out the pieces needed, be given a photocopied pattern of the pieces or be given the pieces cut out and ready for assembly. Each child needs:

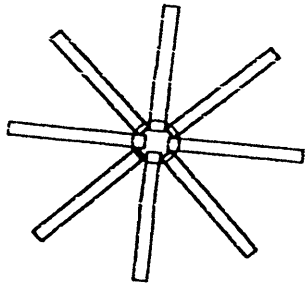
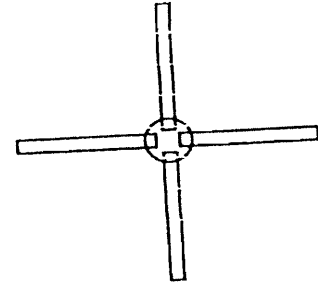
2 orange circles, 1 1/2" in diameter

8 yellow strips, 3/4" x 12"

1 green strip, 3/4" x 12"

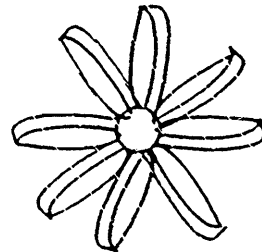
2 green leaves, 3" x 1 1/2"

1. Begin with one orange circle. Glue the end of a yellow strip pointing upwards (12 o'clock), one downwards (6 o'clock) and one left and one right (3 and 9 o'clock). Do this with direction, so the children understand the spacing.



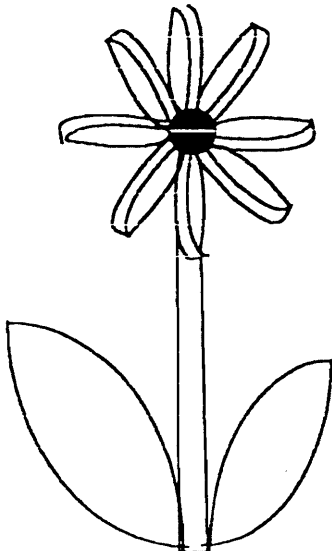
2. Glue a yellow strip between each of these so the strips are spaced equally around the circle.

3. Glue the outward end of each strip back into the same circle. Do not press the loops flat - they need to look three-dimensional. Hold each end for a minute so the glue will hold.



4. Glue the end of the stem into the flower centre also.

5. Glue the other circle on top of the glued ends, so both sides of the flower are neat. Cut out the leaves (as shown) and glue to the stem.



Bugs and Butterflies

Bumble Bees

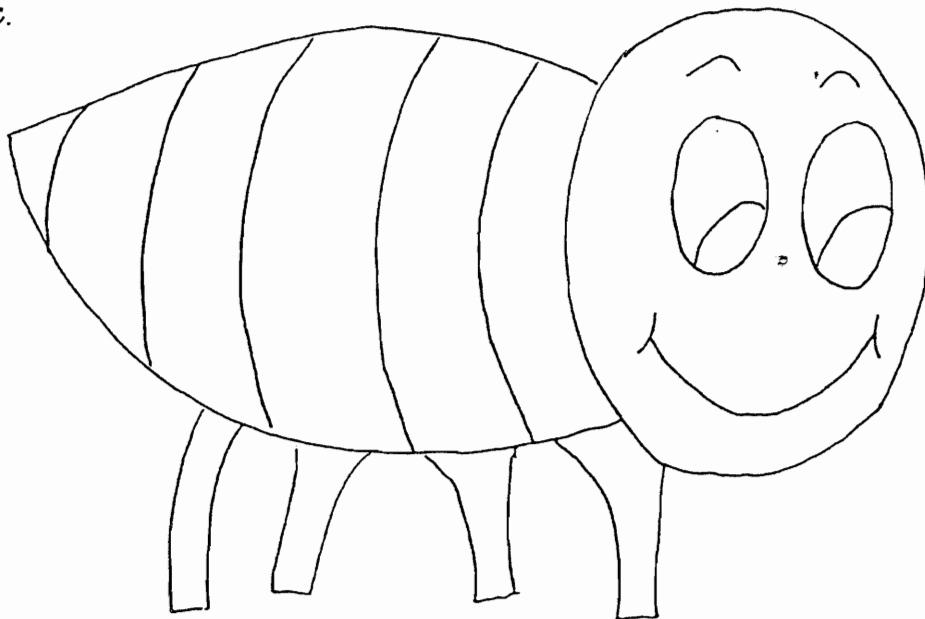
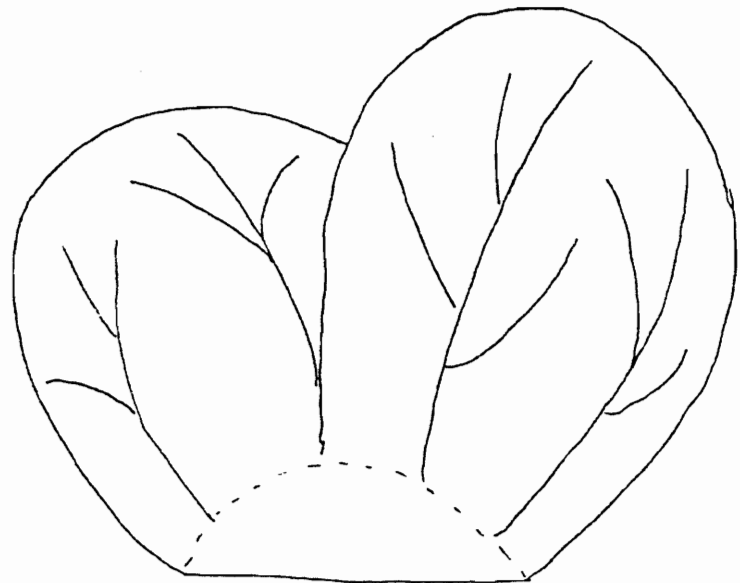
Photocopy the head and body pattern (increasing the size by 50%) on yellow construction paper. The children first outline all the lines on the picture with a black wax crayon. Stress the importance of staying on the lines. With the black wax crayon, colour the pupils of the eyes a solid black. Colour the strip at the bee's "neck" a solid black colour and then every second stripe black. This should leave a small yellow piece at the tail. Cut out the bee's body, head and legs in one piece.

Photocopy the wings on very pale green construction paper. Outline all the lines with black wax crayon and cut out.

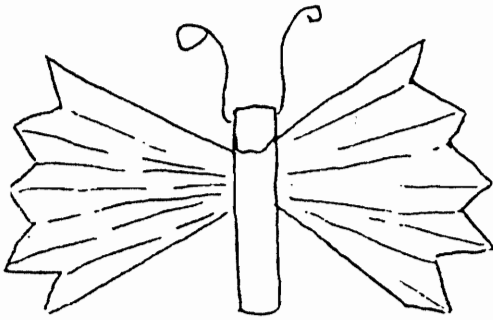
Give each child two strips of black construction paper – 4" x ½" (or a bit wider). These will make the antennae. The children can curl them by wrapping each tightly around a pencil or crayon. Glue the end of each antenna behind the bee's head, one above each eyebrow.

Glue the wings behind the bee's head, fitting the head into the dotted line area.

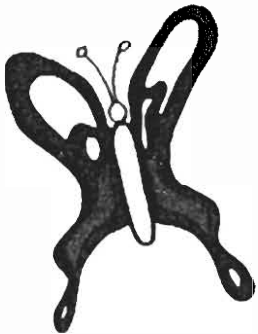
If you have large windows, bees look wonderful flying across the panes one behind the other in a large arc.



Butterflies



Give each child half a piece of photocopy paper, which they fold once. The fold line is the middle, or the body of the butterfly. They colour each side of this line to match so that the whole paper is bright. This takes some explanation, to show that the halves are the same but opposite. When the colouring is finished, the paper is folded like a fan, horizontally. A wooden clothespin is used as the body of the butterfly and a pipe cleaner can be twisted through the clothespin for the antenna.



Beautiful Butterflies

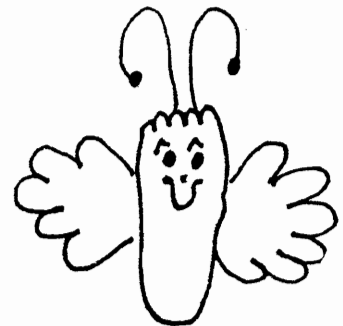
Starch brightly coloured fabric and cut butterflies out of that, then decorate with puff paint.

Or... you can add Iron On interfacing to the back of the material before you cut it which will make it a little stiffer then using the starch. Students can then cut holes in the wings and put tissue paper, coloured cellophane (the grocery stores have this now for Easter basket wrapping), construction paper, material scraps, etc. Students can decorate with beads, shells, twisted paper, string, sand and glue, etc. Cut two long strips of black construction paper for antennas, and twist around a pencil so they curl at the ends. Students can colour the body black, or use a pipe cleaner. Fold the butterflies a bit to create a 3-D effect.

Hand and Foot Butterflies

The child traces 2 hands and 1 foot, and cuts the tracings out. Use the foot as the body. Add features and antennae. Glue on hands as wings.

Decorate symmetrically!



Butterfeet

Have the children work in partners. They take off their shoes (they love this!) and stand with feet close together. The partner traces around both feet. The child puts a butterfly body between the traced feet, decorates the feet as wings, cuts it out and you have "butterfeet".

Pasta Butterflies

Make the stages of the butterfly in pasta! Split a paper into 4 parts. In each part the students label the stage: egg, caterpillar, cocoon, butterfly. Then the students place the corresponding pasta on each part.

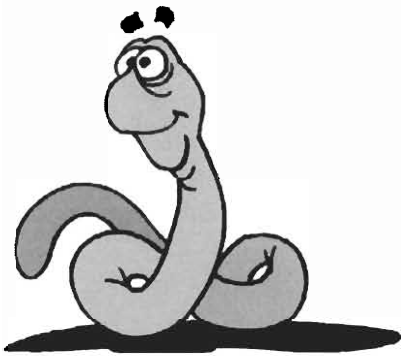
Egg = rice (a few pieces) Caterpillar = Egg noodle

Cocoon = Shell pasta (placed opening down)

Butterfly = bow tie pasta

At this point will make a pretty butterfly by covering a cut out of a butterfly with tissue paper.

Worms



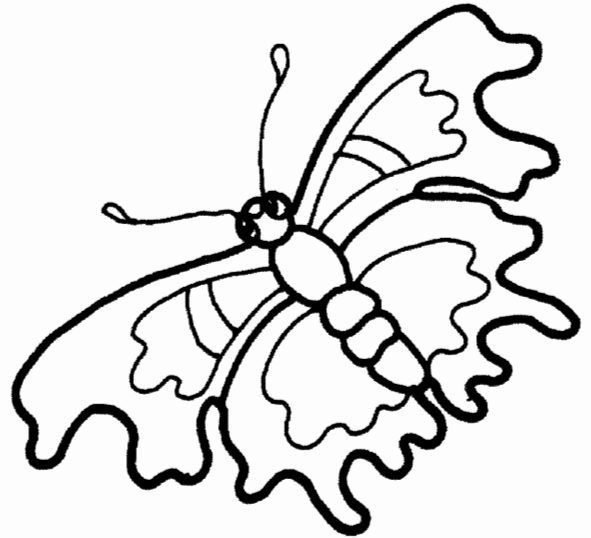
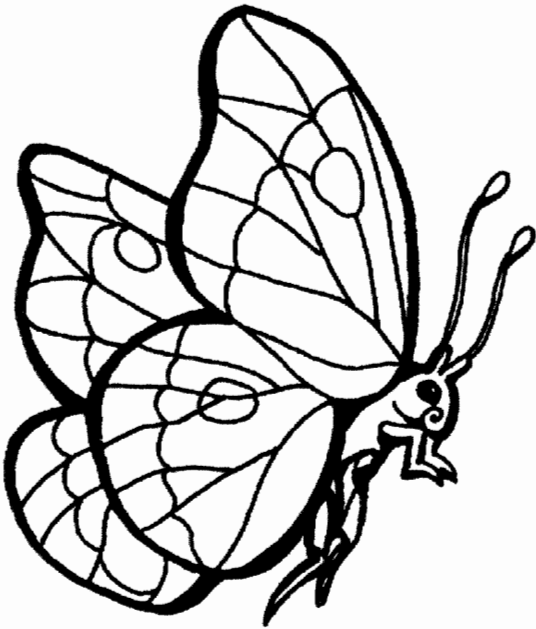
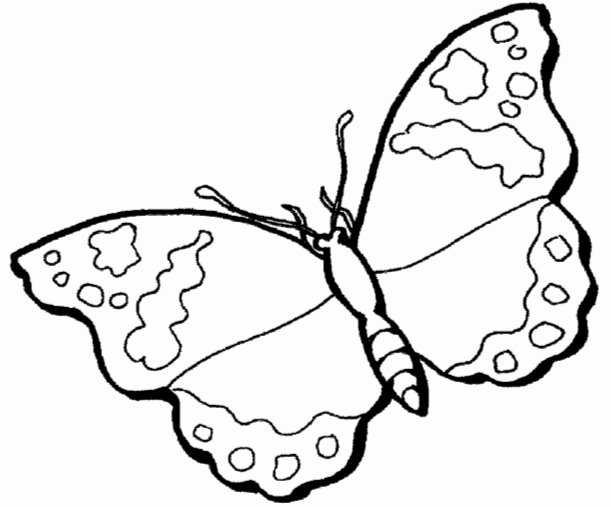
Make worms! Use half the bottom of a cardboard egg crate. Paint it green, add eyes and antenna if you wish.

Draw worms! Make a series of flattened ovals, with a rounder oval for the head. Add a big grin, bulgy eyes and short antenna.



A Page of Butterflies

Many young children like to colour complicated pictures. These butterflies, when enlarged and coloured, will make a bright addition to your spring room decorations. Discuss colouring the wings so they match, being neat and colouring brightly.



Spring Display Ideas

A Growing Bulletin Board

Put brown butcher paper up for soil, put in seeds, show them starting to germinate, then seedlings, then plants growing, and growing ... and growing ... into a TALL sunflower!

A Spring Bulletin Board

The top of the bulletin board will be sun on the far side, clouds on the opposite side with raindrops coming down. You could take a picture of each child and cut a hole in each raindrop and paste/tape their picture behind the raindrop so that their faces would show through the hole.

Umbrellas - April Showers

April is the month for rain, so they say. If you have a rainy day, celebrate it by making fancy umbrellas!

To make the umbrella fringe (this may be thought of as simply a decoration or rain dripping off), glue a piece of crepe paper - blue or grey for rain - behind the umbrella and fringe it by making many cuts close together up as far as the umbrella. Umbrellas and raindrop shapes may be used to print spelling words, sounds, math ideas, poems, etc.





Rainbows - Here are some favorite ways to make a rainbow!

- Torn tissue glued with liquid starch.
- Egg shells with food colour - roll with a rolling pin, dye for each stripe.
- Colored rice - shake in baggie with alcohol and food colouring.
- Finger paint - Use dishwashing liquid and dry tempera, powder.
- Wet chalk - soak chalk for 5 min. in water. Use on its side. Spray with hairspray.
- Crayon shavings - grate with a cheese grater, place on waxed paper. Cover with another waxed paper and iron. Put in windows.
- Spatter paint - Use very thin paint and a toothbrush. Make a stencil from tagboard for each stripe.
- Yarn - Glue the ROYGBIV colors on tagboard.
- Water color - paint on wet paper.
- Collage - cut out objects of each colour from magazines or you can use fabric.
- Peeled crayon - use each crayon on its side.
- Jello - Use dry Jello - they even have blue now!
- Handprints - cut from construction paper.
- Coloured crepe paper streamers attached to clouds for a bulletin board display.

- The "individual" rainbow. Ask the children to make the inner stripe the color of their favorite food, the next one their favorite color, the color of their skin, the color of their hair, and the color of their eyes.

- Make an effective rainbow using handprints in the colours of the rainbow and have some of the children's art work below it.

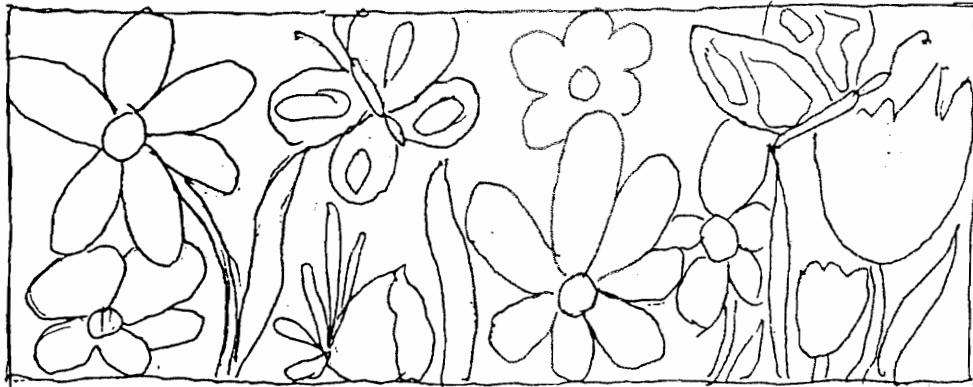
- Do you have a sunny window? Make a rainbow out of tissue paper and put it in the window and create a stained glass effect.

- Get hold of a crystal or prism and show how light shines through and forms rainbows. This may work with sunlight onto a wall or an overhead in a dark room.

- You can make a large circle and then make circles within the circle getting smaller and smaller towards the middle. Color each circle a color of the rainbow. When finished fold the whole thing in half and you have a very effective and 2 sided rainbow to hang. Do this on a piece of regular paper and photocopy it for each student. They are surprised by how the circle of color turns into a rainbow just by folding!

A Spring Mural

On the white paper for your mural, draw huge flower shapes, leaves and butterflies. Turn the paper over and draw large jigsaw puzzle pieces so that there is one for each child in the class using the entire mural paper. Number the pieces on the back and cut them out. Now the children colour or paint their pieces. Because each child will use different colours, the project will look like a Picasso or other modern art when the pieces have been re-assembled.

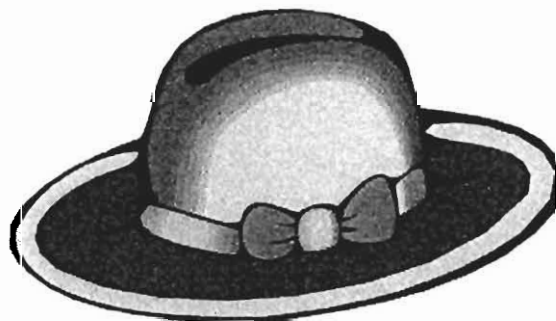


Another Spring Mural

Cut a piece of blue butcher paper from the roll as big as your mural will be. Have the children paint brown circles at intervals in the paper. Then with yellow paint and a large brush, paint large petals around each orange centre.

Hold Onto Your Hat!

Make hats out of paper bowls and paper plates. Cut the centre out of the plate and put the bowl up through the hole. Glue or staple together the bowl and plate. Students can paint the hats and then decorate with ribbon, bows, collared glue, glitter, flowers etc. Put up on the bulletin board with a large cloud blowing and the caption: **Hold onto your hat on a breezy March day or the Old North Wind will blow it away!**



A Few More Spring Ideas...

Rain

Drip, drop, splash.

Drip, drop, splash.

Drip, drop, splash went the rain all day.

It dripped from _____.

It dropped from _____.

It splashed from _____.

Drip, drop, Splash!

Use coffee filters on pipe cleaners for umbrellas.



Baby Birds in the Nest

Have the kids trace their hands onto construction paper, rounding off the bottom of the wrist. Turn the hand with the fingers facing up and draw a simple baby bird face on each finger - 2 circles for eyes and an upside down triangle for the beak. The bottom (or wrist part) of the hand is the nest where the birds hatched. Cut up scrap pieces of earthy coloured wool for the children to glue on the bottom with white glue. This is the nest. The students can also take teeny bits of wool and glue them to the top of the chicks heads for feathers. You can add them to a bulletin board with the words “**Spring is Hatching Out All Over!**”

Hand Print Birds

Soak a sponge with poster paint. The child presses his/her hand firmly on the sponge and then makes a handprint on the paper. Do this with right and left hand, and place them so the wrists are facing one another. Use paint, chalk or crayon to make the bird's body between the hand prints.



The Lion and Lamb of March

The children can choose which they would like to make. Give each child a paper plate. If they are doing a lamb they trace a circle on black as big as the flat centre part of the plate, or if they are doing a lion they do the same but with yellow paper. Then they take strips of paper cut into $\frac{3}{4}$ " x 3" lengths. They curl them around their pencil and roll them tight, when the pencil is removed you have a nice curl. These are glued around the edge of the plate. The face for the Lion can be made with crayons or markers, the lamb can be made with collared chalk.

You could also use cotton balls for the lamb and crumpled tissue paper squares for the lion

Put lions or lambs on the calendar for the daily weather and see if the legend is true!



It's Raining Cats and Dogs!

Take a piece of paper and photocopy a picture of a cat on one side and a dog on the other (or have the children create their own) – each inside a raindrop shape. After they have been coloured, have the children cut out the raindrops, staple on a piece of string and hang them from the ceiling. It's raining cats and dogs!

Wind Art

Drizzle a little liquid paint on a piece of paper. Make sure it's not too much paint, or this project can get messy! Do this for each child.

Take the children outside on a windy day and let them hold their papers up into the air. Let the wind blow the paint into designs.

Easter

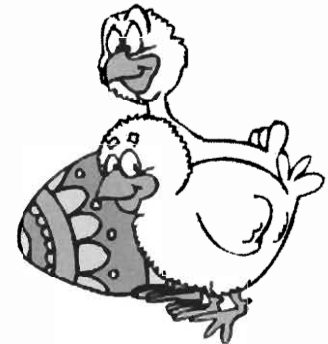


Easter Chicks

Chicks and Egg

Look through old wallpaper books and find a stripe or flower that would make a pretty Easter egg. Trace a tag board egg shape and cut it out. Then make a zig zag cut across the egg to make it look like it has cracked in half. Next paste the egg on construction paper with the zig zag cut towards the top. Make the shape of a chick (one large circle with a smaller circle placed on top but a little to the side and of course a triangle for a beak) coming out of the top of the egg.

The last part is time consuming but worth the effort. Have yellow tissue paper cut into small 1" – 1 ¼" squares. The children place a little liquid glue on a piece of scratch paper. Then they take a pencil with a good eraser. They place the eraser in the middle of one of the yellow tissue pieces, gently squeeze the tissue around the pencil and dip it in the Elmer's glue then carefully place it on the chick shape. The more they place on the chick the fluffier the chick appears. Have a few dark coloured tissue papers so the children can give the chick an eye. Then use markers to colour the beak orange.



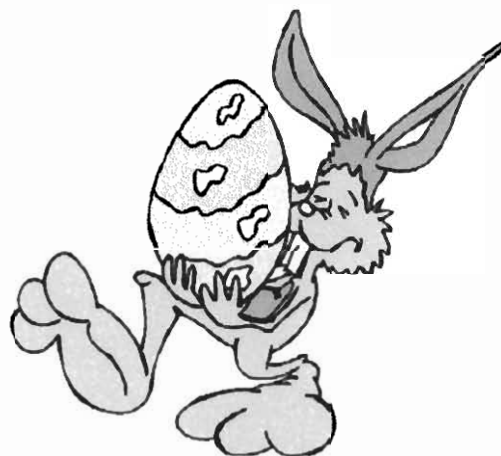
Easter Chicks

Cut individual egg cups from an egg carton. Make V- shaped notches at the top of each to resemble half of a cracked eggshell. With markers, have the children write their names on the bottom of the cup and an Easter message on the front, if they choose. Put 2 teaspoons of powdered paint in a Zip-Loc bag with two cotton balls. Seal carefully and shake vigorously. Shake off any excess paint. (You could substitute yellow cotton balls if you want at this stage.) Cover the inside bottom of the cup with glue. Place 1 cotton ball in the cup for the chicks body. Place a drop of glue on top and add another cotton ball for the head. Punch out two blue dots and glue on for eyes. Cut a small diamond shape from orange paper and fold in half. Glue on for the beak.

Easter Eggs

Talking Eggs

Make construction paper eggs and decorate with lace, sequins, etc. On a speech bubble write what the egg is saying. A great bulletin board display!



Easter Egg Cut Outs

Ever wonder if there was something you could do with dried out markers?

Tape a piece of paper to the table on all 4 sides with masking tape (like a frame). Then do a wash over the paper with a paintbrush dipped in water. Then take dried up markers, dip them in water and make designs on the wet paper. The colours run together beautifully and when it is dried it is very effective Cut out egg shapes!

An Egg Book

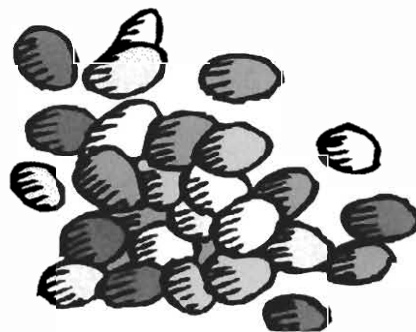
Create an egg shaped book with four pages in it. Decorate the cover to look like an Easter egg. Inside have the children write:

An egg can _____.
An egg can _____.
An egg can _____.
But an egg can't _____.

Each sentence should be on a different page. Brainstorm ideas and write them on the board first, and then the students can write their sentences and illustrate each page. Cute!

Crushed Eggshell Collages

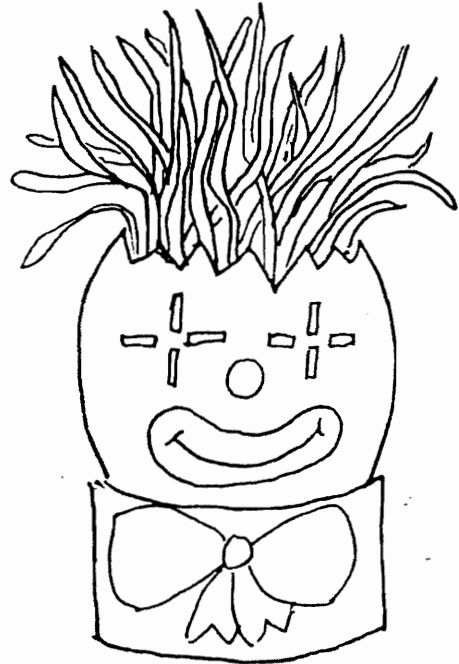
Use crushed eggshells glued onto flower or bunny shapes for an interesting effect.



An Easter Gift

Carefully break off the large end of the egg, drain and wash it well. You can use manicure scissors to trim the edge, if the egg is fresh. Draw a face (a clown face is suitable) on the egg and colour it with felt-tipped markers. Fill the egg with moist soil and add grass seed to the top. Place it in an eggcup or a cardboard tube ring. Keep the soil watered and soon your egghead friend will have sprouted a full head of green hair!

OR: Start flower seeds early in the spring, and at Easter transplant one into each decorated or dipped egg shell.



More Eggs

If your children are dissatisfied with just doing a few eggs and want to dye more, cut out egg shapes from white construction paper and punch a hole in the top. Insert a paper clip and dip them in the dye. They can do as many as they like!

Egg Activities

Try drawing pictures of Humpty Dumpty for Easter.

Make bulletin boards Eastery by making them "Eggs-celent" and "Eggs-plosive". Do "Eggs-periments" and "Egg-stention" exercises, "Eggs-actly" right. You must want your class to "Eggs-cel"!

Have an 'Egg Day', 'Egg Week' or even an 'Egg Month'. Read stories about eggs, learn words about eggs (shell, yolk, white, yellow, chicken, duck, dinosaur, scrambled, fried, etc.), weigh and measure eggs for math, play egg catch outdoors, have an egg and spoon relay, do art using egg shells, plant grass seeds in an eggshell and paint on a face, dye eggs for Easter, learn about animals that come out of an egg, or cook with eggs.

Easter Egg Tree or Mobile

Find a small well shaped tree branch with plenty of side branches. If you wish, spray paint the branch white. Then place it in a decorated can and fasten it with pebbles, sand, plasticine or plaster.

Decorate the tree with paper egg shapes, coloured or painted brightly on both sides to match and hung from ribbon or thread.

OR: Hang a branch by a thread from the ceiling or a beam. Each child colours or paints both sides of an egg shape and all the eggs are hung by thread from the branch so they can swing in the slightest breeze.

Colouring Eggs

Every child should bring at least four eggs, hard boiled.

Of course there are dye tablets to colour the eggs or you can make your own dye by mixing 1 tablespoon of vinegar, 1 teaspoon of food colouring and 1 cup of hot water. Or try the natural dyes on the following page. Soup bowls or recycled margarine containers make good dipping dishes.

Spoon-dip a hard-boiled egg into the dye. See how the colour becomes more intense the longer it stays in the dye. Try dipping into two colours (this works especially well if you only have dyes of the primary colours. You can have a short lesson on the colours that will be formed). If the egg is dipped into three or more colours it will turn a muddy brown!

Draw or print with white wax crayon on the egg before dipping. The crayon will resist the dye and the secret message will become visible.

You can also add stars, seals, small pictures, etc., after the eggs are dry.

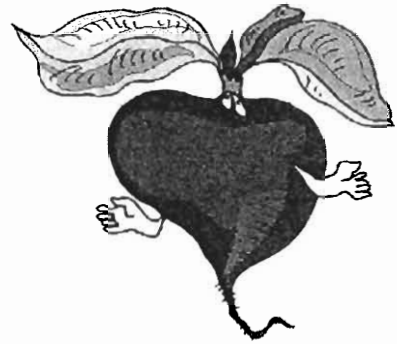
Hint: Cut 1" rings from a cardboard tube. The eggs will sit up in these to dry.



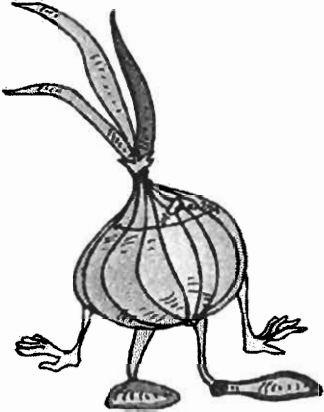
Natural Dyes

Here are some natural dyes to try. Students love this project!

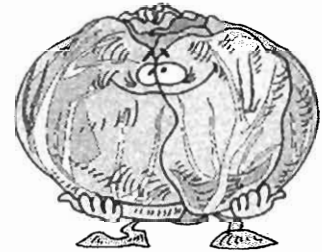
Beets - Boil the beets until soft and mash them. Add a bit of water. Soak the egg in this mush for a brilliant red.



Onion Skins - Peel the dry outer skins from red/yellow onions and wrap the skins around the egg with several layers. Secure them with cheesecloth or nylon stocking and boil the eggs as usual. This gives a beautiful tie-dyed effect. You can polish with vegetable oil for a nice gloss.



Red Cabbage - Boil the eggs with some red cabbage leaves and let stand overnight. The resulting egg will be blue-purple.



A School Easter Egg Hunt

Cut out construction paper eggs, more than enough for every child in the school. Each class could be a different colour if you wish. Number them from 1 to your total, twice on each egg. Cut the eggs in half so there is a number on each piece. On Easter, you scatter one basket of egg halves in a specified part of the playground or in the classroom if the weather is poor.

The children go hunting. They can only pick up one egg half. At an assembly the children hold their egg part. From the other halves numbers are drawn and the winning children get a large chocolate treat or stuffed animal. After these special prizes are given out, all the other children get a somewhat smaller treat by presenting their egg half.

Matching coloured eggs

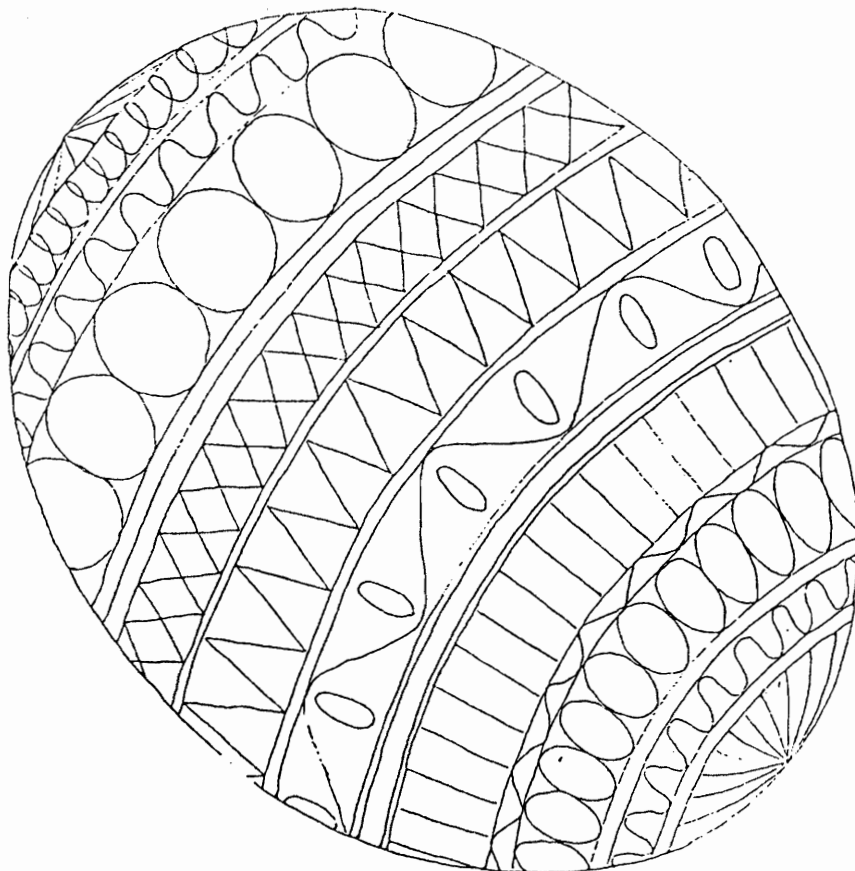
Cut out egg shapes from coloured tag. Make up "matching" questions to suit your grade level.



Fancy Easter Eggs

Many small children love to colour intricate pictures. This Easter egg, when enlarged 200%, will be a favourite. Because of the patterns in this egg, discuss colouring in patterns - Yellow, Yellow, Blue, Yellow, Yellow, Blue; etc.

This picture is good for colouring contests, and looks spectacular when brightly coloured and mounted in a brown woven basket surrounded by flowers.

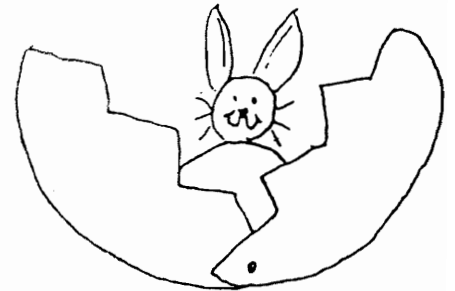




Easter Bunnies

A Bunny in an Egg

Cut a large egg shape out of coloured construction paper. Draw and then cut a jagged line from the top to the bottom of the egg. make a bunny (smaller than the egg) by cutting a large and a small circle of white paper, gluing them to the background and adding ears. Poke a hole near the bottom of the bunny and also poke holes in the bottom corner of each egg piece. Use a paper fastener through all the pieces so the egg will open to show the bunny and then close.



3-D Bunny

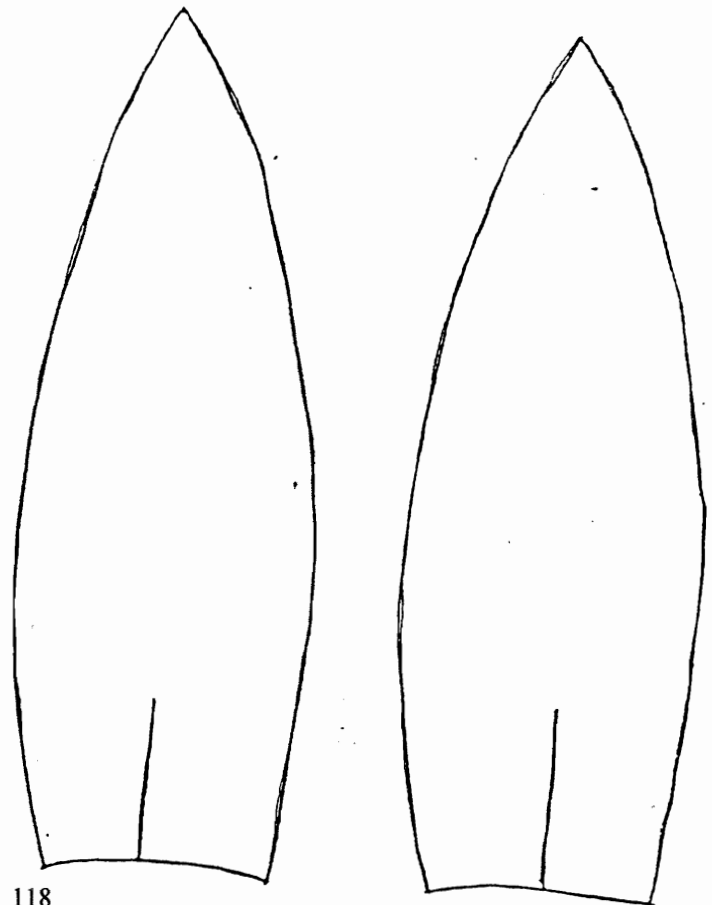
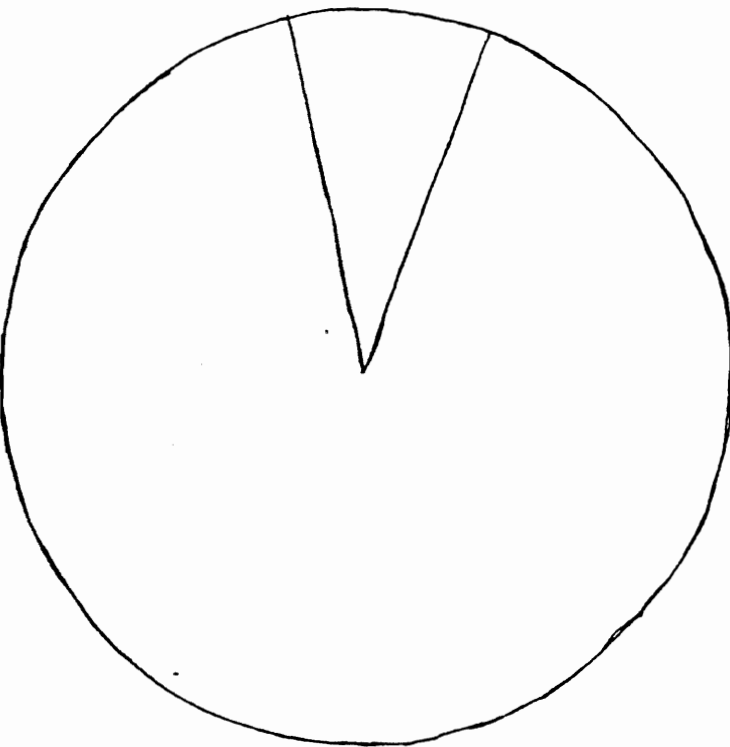
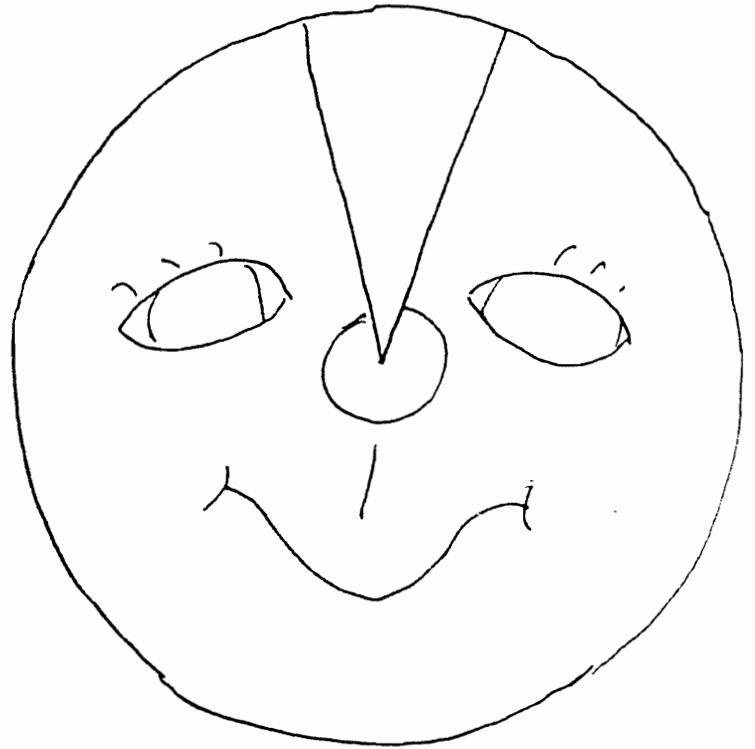
Draw a bunny face on the underside of a paper plate. Cut long ears, colour the centres pink and then cut a slit from the centre bottom of the ear up about 3" and glue one side of the slit behind the other to make the ears three dimensional. Add long whiskers of paper strips or pipe cleaners and a pink candy nose, if you wish. A ball of cotton batting can be glued to each cheek.



Rabbit Faces

Photocopy the head and ear patterns, enlarged 200%, onto manila tag or other light cardboard. Have the children draw and colour the face, as shown with the "V" straight upwards, add black construction paper whiskers, and then cut out the patterns. Cut along one side of the "Y". Put glue on the V and slide it under the other side so the nose becomes the centre of a slight cone. (If you are using cardboard or other material that does not glue well, staple the top of the V.)

Colour the centre of the ears pink. Cut out the ears, also cutting the perpendicular line at the bottom. Slide one side of the ear bottom over the other enough to make the ear have a slight depth inside and staple. Staple the ears in place. Optional: Adding some cotton around the perimeter can make the rabbit look soft and fluffy. A row of rabbit faces makes an attractive Easter panel above the chalkboard.





Easter Baskets

Bunnies in a Basket

Give each child two paper plates. Have them cut one of the paper plates in half. Insides together, glue one half plate to bottom of uncut plate. Colour the baskets. Fill with Easter grass. With a permanent marker draw bunny faces on the tops of plastic spoons. Cut ears out of construction paper. Glue on ears. Stick bunnies into basket. If you're really creative, you could hot glue little bows on the bunny's necks.

Milk Carton Basket

Cut off the lower part of a 1 or 2 litre milk carton. Cover it with white or light grey paper. Draw and colour a rabbit face on one side and add black pipe-cleaner or black construction paper whiskers. Staple ear shapes - pink inside - to the two upper corners of the face. A handle may be made from wool or a pipe-cleaner.

Strawberry Baskets

Collect strawberry baskets. At Easter weave paper strips or ribbon through the baskets. Add a ribbon handle, or a braided paper handle.

Egg Carton Basket

Cut an egg carton in half. Decorate the bottom half with Easter wrapping paper. Cut a long strip from the carton lid and staple to the basket for a handle. Wrap the handle with crepe paper.

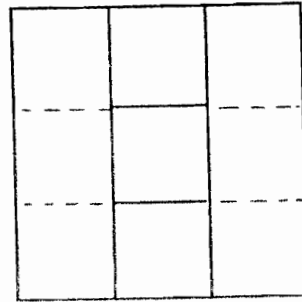
Foil Pan Basket

You can use a foil pan as is, and staple on a handle. Add Easter grass and a bow.

A Paper Basket

Begin with a 12" square (or whatever size you like). Grade Twos can measure and make marks around the square at 4" and 8". Connect these marks to make lines dividing the large square into 9 smaller squares. Show the children how to cut and fold to form a basket.

Cut on the dotted lines and fold on the solid lines.



Glue a suitably sized picture on each side, or have the children decorate the basket with their own designs before the basket is glued together. Add a paper handle.

A Basket Display

Cut strips of brown paper and weave a huge basket for your tackboard. Fill with large decorated egg shapes the children have made. Cut small streamers of green crepe paper to look like grass showing from the top of the basket.



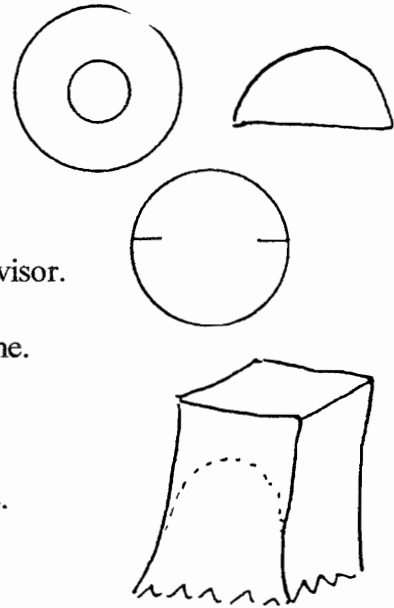


Easter Hats

If every child makes an Easter hat, you can have an Easter parade! Teach the song 'Easter Parade' and sing as you show off the hats around the school.

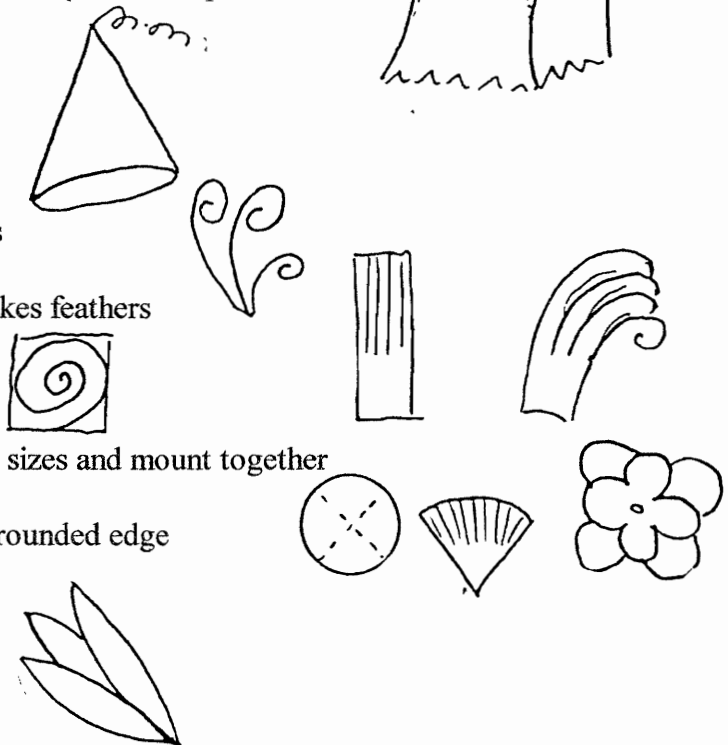
Some hat forms:

- A circle of stiff paper with a smaller circle cut from the centre for a picture hat.
- Half a circle makes a bonnet shape or a baseball cap visor.
- A circle cut on the heavy lines and pleated for a cloche.
- A long band makes a crown or headband.
- Cut a paper bag as in the diagram or try other shapes.
- Make a cone from a half-circle.

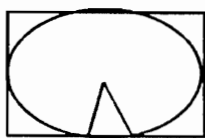


Some decorations for hats:

- Narrow strips curled make plumes
- A rectangle slashed and curled makes feathers
- A spiral makes a dangling plume
- Cut four-petal flowers of different sizes and mount together
- Fold a circle in four and slash the rounded edge
- Cut long leaf shapes for feathers



Another Hat Idea...



Cut an oval from manila tag or stiffer cardboard as shown. Staple the two long edges together so the hat form will be three dimensional. Put ties on by making two small holes about 6" apart and thread a ribbon through. Decorate with ribbons, pastel coloured facial tissue, flowers, feathers, glitter, or use some of the ideas from above.

Paper Plate Hats

- Turn a large paper plate upside down. Cover the bottom with decorations. Attach a long ribbon to each side or thread it through small holes.
- Cut the centre from a paper plate. Flatten some paper baking cups and staple them all around the rim of the hat.
- Cut a paper plate in half. Use only one of the halves and add crepe paper streamers to tie it under the chin.

Easter Flowers

Egg Shell Lilacs

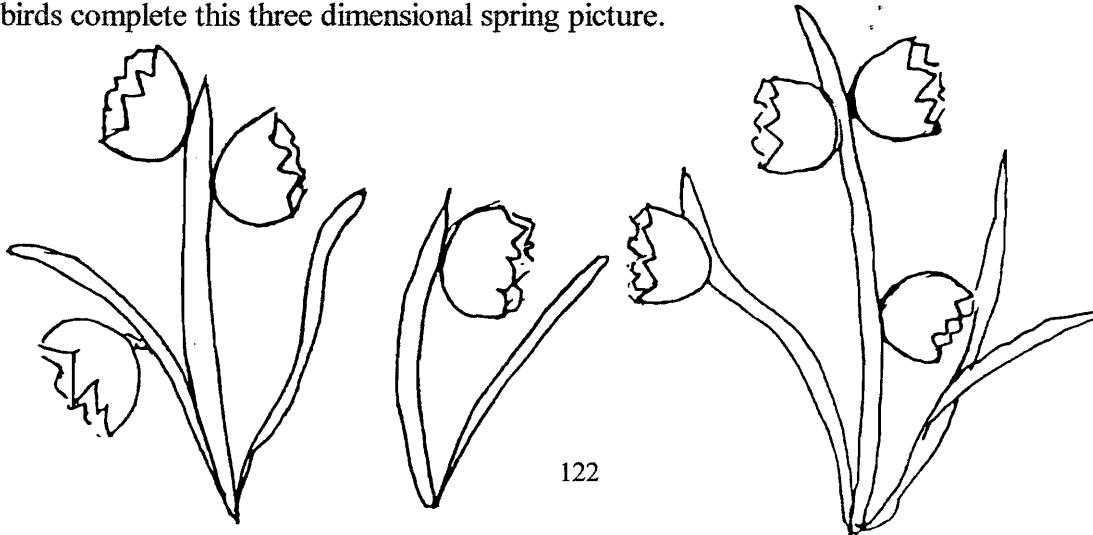
Have the children save rinsed eggshells for several weeks. Draw the stem and flower outline on 9" x 12" construction paper - try purple, not too dark. The children break their eggshells into small pieces. "Paint" the flower outlines, one at a time, with liquid glue. Pour the eggshells over, press lightly (wax paper laid over the egg shells will prevent the hands from becoming sticky), and shake off the excess after a minute or two. Add green heart shaped leaves.

If you wish, the eggshells could be dyed a lilac colour (pink or purple) before breaking them. Try this with a white or pastel background.



An Easter Garden

A colourful spring garden may be made on a tack board with coloured egg shells. Use eggshells broken in half in the usual manner, which children have dyed or painted with water-colours. Pin the shells on green paper stems. Some leaves, grass, butterflies and birds complete this three dimensional spring picture.

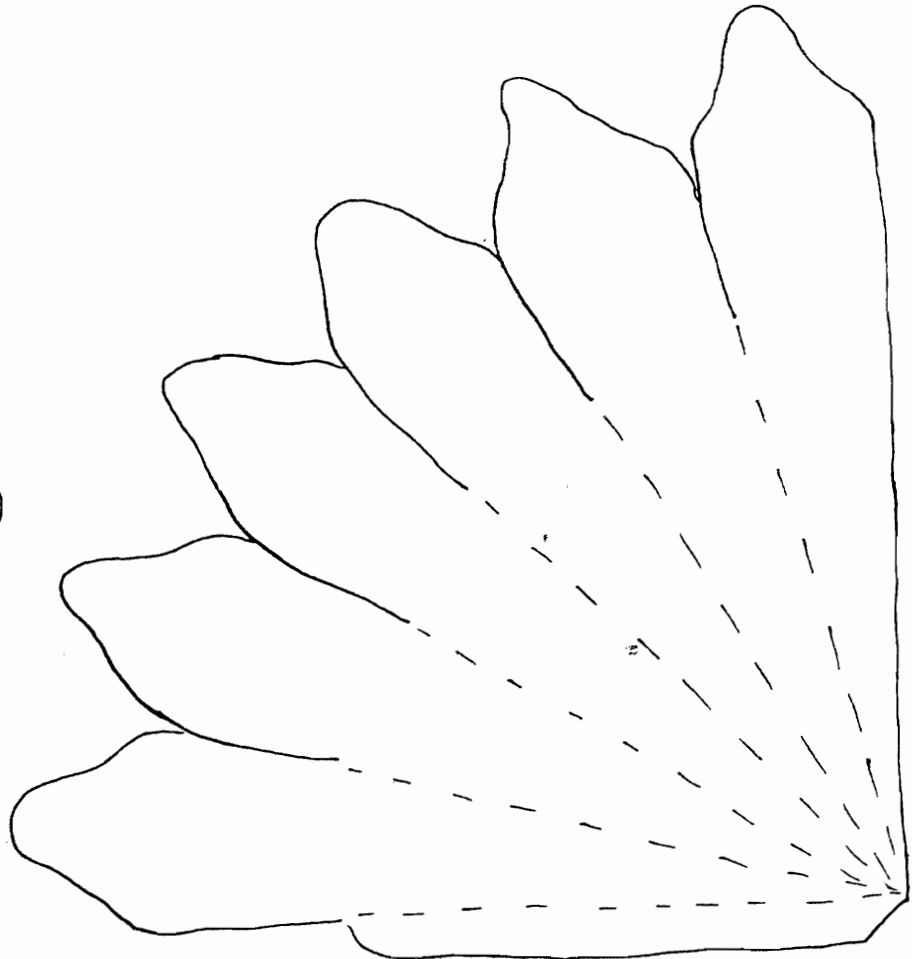
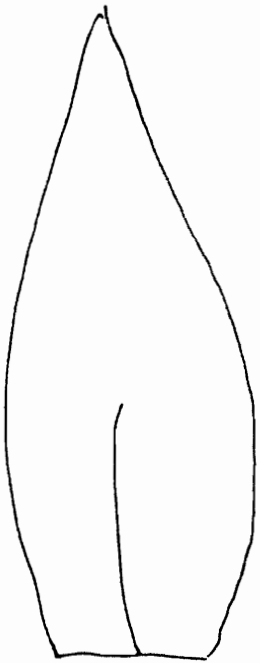




Easter Lilies

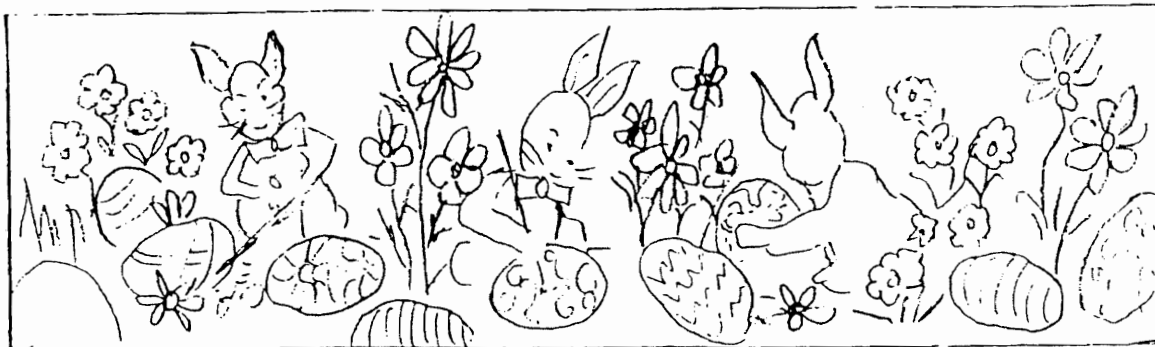
This project is most suitable for Grade Two children. These patterns may be used two ways.

1. Cut the flower from white copier paper (cut on the solid lines). Cut three orange stamens. Fold the lily on all the dotted lines to form a circle. Place the three stamens inside, with the square end out the bottom. Glue the lily closed with the tab, with the three stamens inside. Make three lilies in all. Glue a green stem to a piece of 9" x 12" yellow or lavender construction paper and cut out 3 or 4 green leaves. Cut up the centre of each leaf, overlap the edges, and glue to the lower stem. Put a smallish spot of glue on the back of each lily and glue to the top of the stem.
2. Have older children cut the lily from white crepe paper. Glue together with crepe paper stamens inside. Find a twig to use as the stem. Use glue or tape to fasten the flowers to the stem. Use green crepe paper for the leaves and form as #1. Glue or tape to the twig. Use a strip of green crepe paper to cover the stem.



An Easter Mural

If you have made large brightly coloured eggs, here is a pretty way to display them. Add paper flowers the children have made and bunnies, leaves and grass.



Easter Cards

"The students trace an egg shape and cut it out so that one side is on the fold and is not cut. Then they take glue that has been coloured with food colouring and decorate their eggs. When they dry they look like stained glass. They always turn out great!"

Easter Bunny Treasure Hunt (not art-but so much fun!)

Children work with a partner to find the Easter Bunny "treasure." Explain how the hunt will work: 1. Each partner has to help to read each clue. Model how to track as they read in unison. 2. Partners must walk and "stick together." 3. A reminder is given to stay within school grounds at all times.

Have clues printed on large laminated bunny shaped cards that you can put up when no children are on the playground. Attach the next clue to the next spot they have to go to find the card. The first clue is shown in the class to each pair to read together (secretly) before they start the hunt. (Pairs then leave at staggered times.)

Clue 1 - Go to the swings to look for clue number two. **Clue 2**- Go to the office and say please for clue number three. **Clue 3**- Go to the Gym door to look for clue number four. **Clue 4**- Go to the slide to look for clue number five. **Clue 5**- Go to where you do soccer tricks for clue number six. **Clue 6**- Go to the flag pole and look to heaven for clue number seven. **Clue 7**- Go to the Bus Stop Gate for clue number eight. **Clue 8**- Go to where we have our fine for clue number nine. **Clue 9**- You found clue number 10, go to our class again. The Easter Bunny has left something for you!

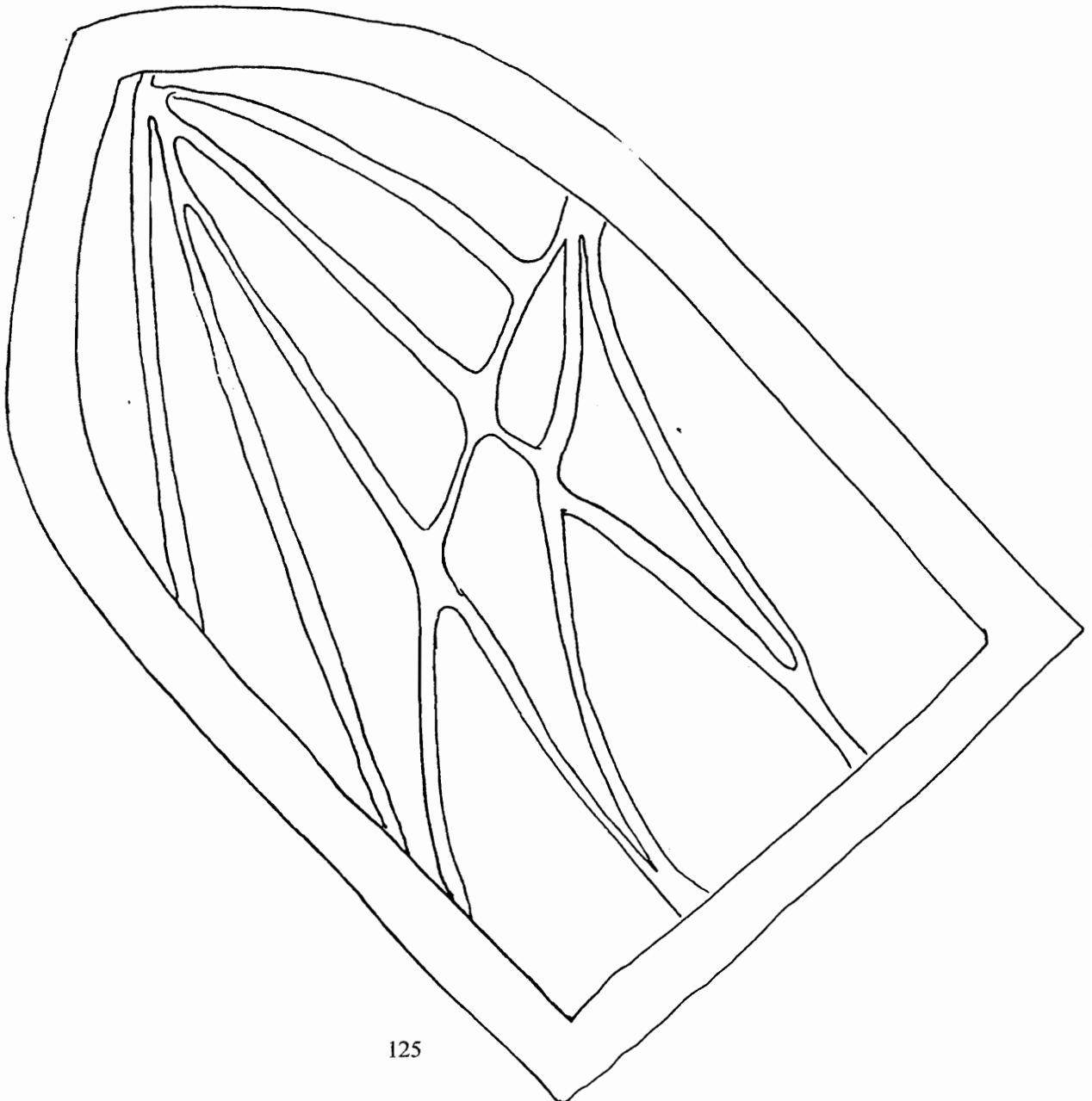
While they are on the hunt, set out a large Easter basket filled with a new Easter Book for the class, and bookmarks, stickers, chocolate eggs, or other treats to share when all partners return.

Church Windows

The children are each given a piece of wax paper about 18" long. They fold it in half like a book and then open it out. Have them choose 2 primary colours - e.g. blue and yellow or red and blue or red and yellow - and on one side of the wax paper put crayon chips made by scraping the crayon with opened scissors. The teacher uses an iron to press the "book" closed. The crayon chips melt and run together.

Give the children an outline of a church window with a wide outside frame. They cut this window out and staple the frame to the wax paper (glue will not hold). These look nice on your classroom windows for Easter.

Hint: To start cutting an enclosed space, first make a hole with a sharp pencil large enough to get the scissors started.





Earth Day

A Planet Like Earth

Dip an unused coffee filter in water and gently ring out so it's not dripping. Gently open the filter all the way so it is a circle and lay it on the middle of a piece of 8 ½" x 11" white construction paper. Give each student 2 Q-tips and watercolour paints with a cup of water.

Only using the colours blue, green, yellow, and orange, have the students paint all over the filter (only the filter) with the Q-tip - they should not make a picture - just paint random blobs (one tip of a Q-tip per colour = 4 tips = 4 colours)

Let these dry. When dry, remove filter from paper and cut out the circle. Glue the colourful "earth" circle onto 8 ½" x 11" black construction paper.

Students can draw stars around their earth with white chalk.

Recycling!

Teachers must do more recycling than any other profession! Here is a (partial) list of useful items to recycle for interesting art projects, etc.

detergent boxes
tops from any type of container
yoghurt containers
cottage cheese containers
baby food jars
strawberry baskets
milk cartons (all sizes)
disposable pie tins
plastic milk jugs
laundry detergent scoops
margarine containers
fabric scraps of all kinds
olive jars
used ribbons and wrapping paper
sacks, old shirts (paint smocks)
meat trays

paper used on one side only
straws
plastic spoons, forks and knives from
fast food restaurants
stir sticks
Popsicle sticks yam, wool, string
paper rolls
plastic and paper plates
Christmas paper rolls
shoe boxes
newspapers & magazines
pop bottles
coffee cans
old wallpaper books
shredded paper

Parents on Board!

A great way to get parents involved with bringing in recycled and needed art supplies is to make an “Art Tree” or “Supply Tree”. Make a tree on a bulletin board – near the door is best. Make leaves out of construction paper, and on each leaf print a needed item. Have a paragraph explaining the project beside the tree. You’ll be surprised at how fast the supplies flow in!

Planets with Land and Sea

Pour clear craft glue into the lid of a margarine tub and place a piece of string in the glue. After the glue is totally dry (don’t pour it too thick) peel it out of the lid. Then the students use markers to colour land and seas onto the glue. When the marker is dry then you can hang it in the window. It is a beautiful sun catcher.



Mother's/Father's Day

Recipe Book Ideas...

❖ Ask each parent to send in a favourite recipe. Put the recipes on the computer, one to a page. Have the child decorate this page with illustrations. Put all the recipes into a book and photocopy for Mother's Day so each child can take a book home as a gift. A photograph of each child on the Mom's page makes the book a special keepsake.

Another Recipe Book

Have the children give you instructions on how to make their favourite foods. Over a few days they write their own recipes which can be put into a book for their moms. Most of the recipes are hysterical and so endearing!

Aprons

To go along with the cookbooks - sew aprons! Use a large tea towel. The children sew a casing and thread ribbon through it. They then sew on an "I", a heart, and a "U" (I love you). The parents love them and the children love making them.



A Book for Mom

On each page have the children complete a sentence and make an illustration.

The sentences might be:

- When I was a baby, my mom....
- Now that I'm a big kid, my mom....
- My mom looks beautiful when....
- I love it when my mom ...
- . My mom and I love to ...
- My mom is the very best
- I wish my mom would
- I want to tell my mom

Do a page a day. Photocopy the sentence starter, or have the children copy it from the board. Decorate the covers with illustrations – have the students do a portrait of themselves and their Mom. Laminate the covers and bind them with plastic binders, or with yarn and a hole punch.

For those students who don't live with or get to see their moms, just adapt the sentences to fit the family situation. Children write these books for grandmas and dads and foster moms... just talk privately and change any words that aren't right for them.

This is rather a big project, but well worth the effort!

Fingerprint Flower

This simple project is always a hit with moms: Have the pupils cut out a rectangle of paper from a wallpaper sample book. This is the table top. Glue on a paper flower pot that has the following poem typed on it. Draw a stem. Make flower petals using thumbprints and fingerprints (using a washable stamp inkpad).



I used my thumb and my fingers too
To make this flower just for you.
It doesn't smell, it doesn't grow;
It's from me to let you know:
Love you, Mom?
Love you not?
Love you, Mom!
Love you a lot!!

Mother's Day Questionnaire

To add a personal touch to a Mother's Day card, have each child answer the following questions: What makes your Mother happy? What's the nicest thing about your Mom? What does your Mom look like? What does she like to do? If you could give your Mom anything in the world, what would it be?

My present is ready for Mother's Day.
I don't have to wrap it or hide it away.
I can carry it with me all day long
It's a kiss, and a smile, and a happy song.

Verses for cards:

Here are flowers
Bright and gay
Just for you
On Mother's Day.

Mother (Father)
I must have been born
Beneath a lucky star
To have a mother
As nice as you are!

To Mommy (Daddy)
Here's a hug
Dear Mommy O
Especially for you.
And here's a great big
Kiss to show X
How much I
love you, too.

Tea

Here's a gift for Mother's Day:
I'll try my best in every way,
But when you get upset with me
Relax and have a pot of tea

This little card brings
Good wishes to you
You're my favourite mother
The whole year through

I send this Mommy
Just to say,
I love you more
And more each day.

Butterfly, go to my
mother
Whisper that I love
her.



The poem can be printed on a pot shape. Staple on a teabag. Or, make 2 teapots and glue the edges together except at the top. Put the poem on the outside and slip the teabags inside.

Handprint Keepsake

Spread fingerpaint on a piece of paper and have each child place his/her hand in the paint and then onto a fresh sheet. They may try this several times until a clear hand print is made. When dry, put the print onto a card and the poem may be printed with it.

*Sometimes you get discouraged
Because I am so small
And always have my fingerprints
On furniture and wall.
But every day I'm growing up
And soon I'll be so tall
That all those little fingerprints
Will be gone beyond recall.
So here's a little handprint
That you can put away
To remember how my fingers looked
In Grade One in May.*



Plants

Start houseplant cuttings or plant flower seeds in late March or early April. (or if you are not that organized, purchase bedding plants). Have each child decorate an empty can, a jar or a plastic cup and pot their small plant to take home as a nice gift.



Hand Painted Ties

Each child brings a tie (mans tie) which they decorate with fabric paint and sequins. Try to get the ties in early and then photocopy them so that the children can plan their designs prior to decorating day. Plan to do this over a few days so that the ties can dry. Wrap them up in the Sunday comics and finish off with a little ribbon.

Photo Ideas...

Take a photograph of each child. Make a frame from plaster or draw and colour or paint a frame. The photograph could also go on a card, nicely decorated.

Mother's Day Magnets

Take a photo of each child, then cut it out and mount on 4" diameter circle; or have children draw their faces on a 4" diameter circle. Each child traces and cuts out 5 - 6 hands, using brightly coloured construction paper. Arrange hands in a flower shape around the circle. Laminate; add a strip of magnetic tape to the back.

Chip off the old block!

Cut wood or plywood into 2 inch by 2.5 inch rectangles. Give these to the kids with a piece of sandpaper with which they must sand until all the edges are smooth. Take a photo of each child and have the children trace a circle around their head in the pictures and then cut it out and glue it to the top half of the wooden rectangle. On the bottom half they glue a small strip of paper that says "Chip off the old block!". Then just add a strip of magnet on the back.

Daisy Photo's

Draw and colour a large daisy with a round hole in the middle Place the photo so the child's face is showing through the hole. You might use this verse:

Flowers grow for all to see
But this one grows for you - it's me!



A Bouquet for Mom or Dad

Brainstorm a list of nice things the kids can do for their moms/dads. (I will clean my room, be nice to my sister, take out the garbage, etc.) Then give each child five strips of green construction paper and have him/her write one sentence on each strip. Then they make a flower for each of these stems and put them into a paper pocket (fold a sheet of construction paper like an ice cream cone, so that the flowers look like a bouquet from the florist). The kids write 'Happy Mother's Day' and decorate it. They can take them home to mom and she can 'pick a flower' when she would like to redeem one of the gifts.

For Fathers Day, do the same thing, except the kids can write on paper golf clubs, and little pockets that look like a golf bag to keep them in.

A Calendar for Dad

Make calendars for father's day! Enlarge and photocopy a calendar with blank squares for July and August. Glue them onto 11" x 17" construction paper and add a cover. Attach the 3 pages with ribbon or wool. Brainstorm outings with Dad (e.g. baseball game, picnic, bike riding, lunch at the office, swimming after work etc.). The children can plan about 5 activities for each month. Have each child pick his/her favourites and illustrate it on the page above the month.

The first page can say Happy Father's Day! and be decorated with a picture. On the back of that page they draw their July activities and on the back of the July calendar sheet they draw the August activities. Write in pencil and include a short note explaining that things may have to be rescheduled depending on Dad's schedule.



Potholders

An idea that is easy for Mother's Day is to have the kids put their handprints with paint, on a plain white or cream coloured potholder. They can also sign their names, with markers or fabric paint. You can use inexpensive purchased pot holders or get quilted fabric and sew your own - just a square, then turn it right side out and sew around it again about 1/4 inch for a border. You can put a piece of bias tape in the corner for a handle.

School's Out!

Memory Books



A word to the wise - don't wait until the very end of school to start these. They are time consuming, but definitely a treasure!

Some Ideas for Memory Books... use some, all, or a combination of these ideas...



- ❖ A photocopy of the class photo.
- ❖ Any photos taken during the year. (I mount these throughout the year on coloured ditto paper and the children write or dictate sentences about their pictures. It is also a nice way to show how their writing has developed throughout the year.) Especially good are photos from the first day of school and the last week of school, special projects or days.
- ❖ Self portraits, dated.

*I started in September
So cute and small,
And through the months I've grown so
tall.*

*Look at my portraits, And you will see
How much I've grown,
My pictures and ME!*

- ❖ A Page titled "My Favourite Book or Story", illustrated.
- ❖ Samples of art, student written stories
- ❖ Lyrics of favourite songs.
- ❖ Handprints – you could include verses from the “Mother’s Day” section of this book.
- ❖ Have the children draw an outline picture of their favourite part of the year and write a sentence telling what it was. Each child signs their art work. You could also draw your favourite part of the year. Then make a colouring book for each child. Put on a cover page and then bind it.

- ❖ "I'm Growing" page:
At the beginning of the year
I weighed _____ lbs or kgs
I was _____ feet or cm tall.

At the end of the year
I am _____ lbs or kgs.
I am _____ feet or cm tall.
- ❖ Each student writes an "essay" on their favourite things during the year. (Reduce these on the photocopier and put 2 per page)
- ❖ . "When I grow up I want to be a _____ because _____.
- ❖ . Photocopies of events during the year (field trips, Halloween, etc.)
- ❖ Have the children draw a picture of their favourite places at school, such as classroom, gym, lunchroom; then write a short reason why they enjoy that particular place.
- ❖ Child writes the teacher's name and then draws a picture of the teacher. Next write reasons why they like you as a teacher. Then have children brainstorm things that make the teacher happy, and then draw a picture of one idea.
- ❖ Draw a picture of yourself and a friend.
- ❖ Gather autographs.
- ❖ Sentence starters:
My fondest memory _____.
The funniest thing that happened _____.
My teacher was _____.
My best friend was _____.
My favourite book was _____.
I felt proud when _____.
My favourite subject was _____.

Happy Summer!

