

Veggie Stamp Planters

Overview: Children create a small planter using recycled materials and decorated with stamps made from potatoes.

Subject area: Garden Arts and Crafts

Grade level: K – 5th

Prep time: 15 minutes

Lesson time: 20+ minutes

Materials needed:

- Recycled aluminum cans (1 per child)
- Hammer and nail
- Fabric strips (1 per child)
- Scissors
- 10+ potatoes to use as stamps
- Knife
- Paper plates (1 per child)
- Paints of various colors
- Ribbons (2 per child)
- Tape
- Hot glue gun
- Soil
- Seeds

Space needed: Area with flat, stable work surface

Staff needed: 1-2

Preparation steps:

1. Collect aluminum cans.
2. Use hammer and nail to make drainage holes in bottoms of cans.
3. Cut strips of fabric to fit around recycled cans
4. Carve designs into potatoes to create stamps. You can find instructions here:
http://www.firstpalette.com/Craft_themes/Colors/Potato_Stamps/Potato_Stamps.html

Presentation steps:

1. Provide instructions to children about how to make a veggie print (dip potato stamp in paint and wipe some off, so it makes a nice print—children can wash the stamp if they want to use it for a different color).

2. Tape fabric strips in front of children and give them a choice of paint colors (put a small amount of each paint color on a paper plate).
3. Children decorate their strip with the stamps.
4. When they are done stamping, children select 1-2 colors of ribbon. Children temporarily tape ribbon and fabric strips onto can; a staff member will come around with a hot glue gun to more securely attach the ribbon and fabric to the can.
5. Once all cans are decorated, children can fill their cans with soil and plant their seeds.
6. Note: don't water cans at camp, instruct children and their parents to water them when they get home.