

CLOTHES DYED BY NATURE



autumn

Topic: Photography



Key terms: nature, changes in nature, natural materials, dress, seasons, photography

What we need: stencils in the shape of an outfit (or individual items - skirt, dress, trousers, T-shirt), camera/smartphone with camera

Estimated time: 30 minutes

Methods: experiential learning, practical skills

Activity description:

Possible objectives: To learn practical skills in photography. To point out beauty and variety in nature.

Activity:

Aim of the activity:

To learn basic rules of photography whilst taking pictures of nature.

Background context:

Thanks to smartphones and tablets, many children are getting behind a camera earlier than ever before. Photography offers children a range of exciting and valuable learning experiences such as stimulating and developing their own ideas on design, expressing their own view of beauty and the world around them, expressing their vision and identity, and providing children with the opportunity to be innovative.

Before the activity:

Teacher prepares a stencil cut to resemble an item of clothing for each child in advance (pair, group) - the stencil is cut out of cardboard. The stencil could cover a whole outfit or it could cover just one item of clothing - skirt, dress, T-shirt.

Introduction to the activity:

Children, can you imagine wearing clothes made only of materials that you can see around you? Leaves, grass, sand etc.? What colours are these materials? How would you feel wearing it? Let's play fashion designers and design clothes made only of materials that nature offers to us.

During the activity:

Children are asked to place the stencil on different surfaces (e.g. grass, wooden logs), or observe further objects looking through it (e.g. flower bed, water, leaves). When they find a pattern they like, they take a picture of their new designs. Whilst taking the pictures the teacher explains how to zoom, what is composition, what should be sharp on the picture and what can be blurry and that the children need to stand still whilst taking the pictures. Teacher may even point out lighting problems (shadows, darkness).

Afterwards, you can create an exhibition showing the variety of nature or the photos could be used to compare the changes in nature throughout the year.

Possible evaluation questions for children:

Do you find nature colourful enough for your fashion designs? How would the dress look if it was made in another season? How many different colours can you find on your designs?

Curriculum links:

Arts and Culture
Photography

Sources: © This activity sheet was created by The Take Me Out Partnership

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