

### PROJECT #1

DESERT IMPRESSIONS/ COLLAGE



These activities give your class the opportunity to create desert inspired art projects that compliment the grade's theme. Initiate class discussions with students regarding their choices and experiences before and after creating the piece. Included is a suggested bulletin board idea for your class to participate in as a group.

### **MATERIALS**

clay (recipe below)
desert materials
can of acrylic sealer
string or yarn
straws
rolling pins

### **PREP**

- 1. Prepare clay (1 cup each of flour, salt & water), may need more to triple the recipe. Can be stored in an airtight plastic bag for up to a week.
- 2. Have students take a nature walk with their families or their class to collect different parts of desert plants they find along the way, i.e., leaves, stems, roots, seed pods, small, flat items work best.

### IN THE CLASSROOM

- 1. Give each student a golf ball size piece of clay and let them roll it out flat with their hands or rolling pins.
- 2. Let the students press desert materials into clay to make impressions or let desert materials harden in the clay to make a collage.
- 3. Make 2 holes at the top using a straw, later you will thread yarn/string though the holes and tie to hang artwork. (It depends how wide the clay is rolled out, e.g., if it is 5" wide, make 2 holes 2" apart).
- **4.** Let artwork dry completely for a week on a cookie rack, flipping several times to let both sides dry and harden.
- **5.** Spray a light coat of acrylic sealer on front and back of artwork to preserve.
- 6. Thread string/yarn through holes and tie, it is ready to hang.



## PROJECT #2

### DESERT PLANT RUBBINGS



These activities give your class the opportunity to create desert inspired art projects that compliment the grade's theme. Initiate class discussions with students regarding their choices and experiences before and after creating the piece. Included is a suggested bulletin board idea for your class to participate in as a group.

### **MATERIALS**

1 brown paper lunch bag/ student 8\_" x 11 white paper / student color pencils or crayons glue

### PREP

1. Have students collect different shaped leaves on a nature walk with their class or at home.

### IN THE CLASSROOM

- 1. Place paper over leaves then rub with a color pencil or crayon.
- 2. Mount and glue artwork on a piece of brown paper bag measuring 12" x 16".
- 3. Rip the edges of the brown paper bag around the art work to make it look like an old/ancient surface. You can also crumble brown paper bag to make an old looking surface before mounting artwork.
- 4. Glue white paper with plant rubbings onto prepared brown paper bag.



## PROJECT #3

## FRAME THE DESERT

These activities give your class the opportunity to create desert inspired art projects that compliment the grade's theme. Initiate class discussions with students regarding their choices and experiences before and after creating the piece. Included is a suggested bulletin board idea for your class to participate in as a group.

### **MATERIALS**

2 pieces of 6"x 6" of cardboard/student glue yarn or string collected desert material

### **PREP**

- 1. Have students take a nature walk with their families or class to collect natural desert materials.
- 2. Cut out 2 pieces of cardboard to the size of 6"x 6". The second pieces of cardboard is the frame, draw a border of 1 1/2" around and cut out middle section for opening to display picture for each student.

### IN THE CLASSROOM

- 1. P1. Have students glue the ends of a 12" long piece of yarn/string to the top left corner and top right corner of the solid 6" x 6" piece of cardboard. (*That will be how the picture can be hung.*)
- 2. Glue the second piece of cardboard (with opening cut in the middle) to the top of the solid piece that has the yarn glued to it. Glue only three sides of the frame, (top, left side and bottom), leaving the right side open to slide a picture into the frame.
- 3. Students will glue the collected desert materials, e.g., sand, pebbles, leaves, twigs, etc. to decorate the frame.



### BULLETIN BOARD



## ART GALLERY "THE COLORS AND SHAPES OF THE SONORAN DESERT"

Develop board around Desert Impressions artwork and Desert Plant rubbings. Displaying the artwork can demonstrate the different shapes of 3 main parts of the plant.

### ARIZONA STATE STANDARDS

### **Art Standards**

### **Beginning Visual Arts**

S1C1: PO1 Contribute to a discussion about ideas for his or her own artwork

S1C2: PO1 Identify and experiment with materials, tools, and techniques in his or her own artwork

S1C2: PO2 Use materials, tools, and techniques appropriately in his or her own artwork

S1C3: PO1 Identify and use elements in his or her own artwork

S1C4: PO1 Describe and explain his or her own artwork

S1C5: PO1 Identify successful aspects of his or her own artwork and possible revisions

#### Science Standards

#### Life Science

S4C3: PO1 Identify some plants and animals that exist in the local environment.