

Wildflower Power Mexo Clay (air dry) Tiles

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Lesson Purpose

Wildflowers are plants that grow in their natural state with little or no interference from man. Florida has more than 3,600 native and naturalized flowering species. Under natural conditions, wildflower seeds ripen and are dispersed by wind and animals in late summer, fall, and winter. The natural cycle for the wildflower seed will produce the best germination in the next season. If the seed is planted at other times of the year, the percentage of germination will be lowered and the overall effect of the bloom period will be greatly reduced. The appropriate time of the year is a crucial factor for successfully establishing a native wildflower. Growth of the wildflower has to happen quickly in order to fend off competing weed seedlings and for the seedlings to withstand adverse weather conditions. The ideal combinations of soil temperatures and rain that are most likely to promote relatively quick germination, emergence, and seedling growth will aid the flourishing of wildflowers. As each State grows in population, we have a tendency to lose the flowers native to that State. Many organizations have been created, such as the Florida Wildflower Foundation, to help educate the public about wildflowers, which ones are native and how to replant them in barren/disserted areas with careful germination planning. Through the use of clay art we can highlight the beauty of Florida's native wildflowers and have each student focus on importance of the value of our wildflowers, and to motivate you to become actively involved in protecting and preserving them for future generations. Each student will learn about our native wild flowers, choosing a flower they like and writing a brief description on it. They will create a tile with air dry clay with the imprint of the flower on it.

The standards for this lesson

VA.A.1.2.1 Uses and organizes two-dimensional and three-dimensional media, techniques, tools, and processes to produce works of art that are derived from personal experience, observation, or imagination.

VA.A.1.2.3 Knows the effects and functions of using various organizational elements and principles of design when creating works of art.

VA.A.1.2.4 Uses good craftsmanship in a variety of two-dimensional and three-dimensional media.

What will my students be able to do when they finish this lesson or unit?

How to use Air Dry Clay and create a tile, thinking of the processes and skills involved. The student will learn by exploring with air dry clay, what the clay body can/not do. By creating a tile, the student will learn how to create shapes and attaching them by using their hands and various tools.

What assessment tools will I use?

Student will be able to identify a native wild flowers and recognize how art and clay can impact their environment. Through presentation of their tile each student will be assessed on if the Wildflower tile is complete and was done neatly. The student will also be assessed on if the tile of the Wildflower is realistic.

Who will assess student performance and how will this be done?

I will assess student's performance based on written information gathered on a Wild Flower of their choice and the wild flower tile they create.

How will I report the assessment results?

I will grade each student under the following point system:

Tile is complete and done neatly _____/30pts

Is the Wildflower Tile realistic _____/30pts

Student discusses 3 facts about a wildflower of their choice _____/20pts

Student uses a clear voice and eye contact when speaking _____/10pts

Student hands in the project on time _____/10pts

How will the lesson be introduced?

I will explain when Spanish explorer Juan Ponce de Leon arrived in Florida on Palm Sunday in 1513, he named Florida, La Florida, "land of flowers", in honor of the Spain's Easter celebration. There was at that time an abundant wildflowers as far as the eye could see.

As communities grew, native Floridians people and new settlers utilized native wildflowers for a variety of things, from medicine and food to aesthetics. They recognized wildflowers' places in nature's hierarchy and their importance in the plant and animal kingdoms.

As years passed with the destruction of natural places in Florida in order to develop modern dwellings such as homes, schools, and businesses, with it's the once beautiful landscape lost many of its wild flowers. Recognizing the loss of such beauty, many Floridians tried to save the wildflowers within in their own communities.

Florida's flowers include more than 4,100 kinds of spontaneous occurring plants. There are 2,800 Florida native plants. Florida's 2,800 native plant list includes trees, shrubs, vines, ferns, grasses and flowering herbaceous species. In the spirit of Lady Bird Johnson's Highway Beautification Act created in 1965, we are going to help revitalize neglected landscapes with the use of clay and wild flower seeds.

Each student will learn about our native wild flowers, choosing a flower they like and writing a brief description on it. Each student will then create a wildflower tile using air dry clay.

What procedures will I follow?

1. Introduce the lesson by selecting a wild flower and identifying why it is native for this area.
2. Have students research the Florida Wild Flowers.
3. Have students fill out a Wild Flower Identifier sheet, Wildflower Word Search, and Wildflower Crossword Puzzle.
4. have students present a brief description of a wildflower of their choice.
5. Provide a slab of clay, rubber stamps and/or stencil of a wildflower.
6. Demonstrate how to make wildflower tile.
7. Have students create a wildflower tile.
8. Provide tools for creating and decorate unique wildflower tiles.
9. Cover with plastic to dry.
10. Handout dried project for presentation and take home.

What activities will my students complete?

Each student will choose a Wildflower which they identify with from the list provided in the Wild Flower Recognition sheet. Each student will research about the Florida Wild Flowers they have chosen answering the questions provided in the Wild Flower Identifier sheet. Each student will be provided with a slab of air dry clay to create a tile.

How will you summarize the lesson?

I will recap a few of the Florida native Flowers and how through the use of air dry clay, we can appreciate them and help bringing their beauty to the awareness of others.

What instructional materials will I use for this lesson?

- Laguna Mexo White Air Dry Clay
- Ceramic tools including: Fettling knife, needle tool, mini sculpting tool kit, & various ribbon tools
- Rolling pin, large and small
- Rubber stamps
- Stencil of wildflowers
- Acrylic paints
- Newspaper
- List of Florida native Wildflowers