



TORN PAPER PORTRAITS



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Grades 2 - 6

Time: Two to Three 45-60 minute sessions

MATERIALS: heavy white paper • scraps of various colors and textures of paper
construction paper • glue and/or glue sticks • project samples

Please consult our
Detailed Art Instructions
for complete details and
recommendations on
artwork creation.

CORRELATION:

This project correlates nicely with classroom autobiographical writing units. The resulting masterpieces make fabulous journal and portfolio covers or family gifts.

OBJECTIVES:

The student will create a torn paper collage that captures their image of a particular game, hobby, activity or animal that is of special interest to them.

TEACHER INPUT:

Talk with the children about games, sports or hobbies that they like or read a story about a child or animal with a specific talent or interest. Frederick by Leo Lionni is an especially good story because, in addition to an engaging story, the illustrations are made from torn paper

Explain to the children that they will be creating a portrait of themselves and something that makes them unique. This portrait will be created from torn paper. Talk about the word "collage", and look for illustrations from Eric Carle's books for ideas and inspirations.

Spend time demonstration how to tear paper into specific shapes and how to lay the shapes out so that they go together easily. Remind students to plan ahead in regards to color usage.

I usually have the children construct their portrait completely out of differently colored construction paper or other colored papers. The portrait is generally constructed on a white paper background.

Once the portrait has been completed and mounted on the white background, the students then tear out the white background and mount it separately onto the construction/colored paper background. The white "border" highlights the figure on the brightly colored construction paper. An additional plus is the background colored paper stays neater with fewer smudges and glue spills.

Submitted by Peggy Jensen - Art Instructor for Bear Canyon Elementary School, Highlands Ranch, CO