

Rain Art Activity

(Peel Art Gallery, Museum, and Archives)

Activity Description: Students will make art inspired by rain! They will draw landscapes in crayon, we will spray their page with small droplets of rubbing alcohol, and they will paint over the sky using blue watercolour paint, which will create a droplet effect reminiscent of a rainstorm. We will make real world connections by discussing the water cycle, changing forms of water, and the impact of rain on the environment.

*This activity will be done by the PAMA staff, students will be instructed upon arrival.

Rain Art Script

What do you know about the water cycle?

- The water cycle is a never-ending cycle allowing for the continuous movement of water throughout the earth and our atmosphere.
- Water has three phases: liquid, solid, and gas. It changes between these phases due to temperature.
- If liquid water experiences cold temperatures (0 degrees or below), it freezes into ice, but if it experiences hot temperatures, it evaporates into water vapour.
- This water vapour can condense to form clouds, and is later released through precipitation to return back to the earth.

Does anyone know what precipitation means?

- Precipitation is the falling of water vapour from clouds due to gravitational pull. The main examples include rain, snow, and hail.

The cycle continues...

- Liquid water can flow across the land in what is known as runoff, be absorbed into the ground through infiltration, and become groundwater which is absorbed by plants.

- It can also return directly to water sources, like a lake or pond.

*Note: the next 2 questions will be more of a brief discussion with the kids... if we don't hit on all the points, it's okay!

Why are rain and other forms of water necessary for the environment?

Environmental Impacts

- The water cycle helps plants grow, as they need water. It also provides fresh water for animals and humans to drink, as water is purified through evaporation.
- The water cycle heavily impacts the climate and changing of seasons. This is why we experience snow in the winter, and more rain in the spring.
- Glaciers are an example of a giant freshwater reserve, as they are largely made up of ice. They provide nutrients to lakes and oceans, provide a water source for humans and animals, and even habitats for some animals like polar bears!

How does this impact our lives?

- This cycle is necessary for growing crops, which provide us with the food we eat.
- We also use water to power many machines, so it is important we understand the temperatures that water changes form at, to prevent it freezing within the machine.
- Rain can cool down temperatures on a hot day, improving our thermal comfort.
- Our lives may be affected by drastic changes in weather, including things such as flooding or droughts.

Activity

Materials:

- Blue Liquid Watercolour Paint
- Watercolour Paint Brushes
- Blank PAMA postcards
- Crayons
- Water
- Small buckets to hold the paint
- Spray Bottle
- Rubbing Alcohol

Instructions:

1. Fill buckets with water, add a few drops of liquid watercolour, and mix.
2. Students will be given a blank postcard and crayons, and be instructed to draw a landscape (an outdoor scene). They will be told to leave the sky blank!!
3. Once finished, students will give volunteers their postcards. We will use a spray bottle filled with rubbing alcohol and spray the blank part of the postcard where the sky is, 1-2 times.
 - a. Holding the spray bottle farther away will produce a better effect; if it is too close to the page, the droplets are too large.
4. We will give the student back their postcard, along with a watercolour brush. They will dip the brush in the paint/water bucket, then lightly paint over the sky.
 - a. As the rest of the page is coloured in with crayons made of wax, the paint will not affect the colours due to the concept of wax resist (wax resists the absorption of watercolour).
5. If the postcard is very wet, blot with paper towel.