

'My Outdoor Classroom' Lesson Plan

School Curriculum and Standards Authority (SCSA) Curriculum Links

- *Kindergarten - Learning and Thinking:* Use imagination and innovation – explore and experiment with form, shape, colour, line, texture, contrast, patterns in art works
- *Pre-primary, Year 1 and 2 Visual Art:* Exploration of, and experimentation with, the visual art elements of shape, colour, line, space and texture (ACAVAM106)
- *Pre-primary Visual Art:* Exploration of natural and man-made items when creating artwork (ACAVAM107)
- *Year 1 Visual Art:* Exploration of techniques and art processes, such as mixed media, colour mixing or drawing (ACAVAM107)
- *Year 2 Visual Art:* Experimentation with, and use of items, media and/or technologies when creating artwork (ACAVAM107)

Spraying Silhouettes

Activity 3

Resources:

- A3 paper or card
- Newspaper
- Spray bottles
- Water
- Food colouring (at least the primary colours - red, yellow, and blue)

Pro tip: use edicol dye for stronger colours

Introduction

A silhouette is the image of an object, animal or person represented as a single solid colour (usually black) with the outlines seen against the light. Children will be familiar with shadows as silhouettes.

For this activity, the children will be creating reverse-silhouettes using natural items!

Before You Head Out

Encourage the children to be very observant and look for objects with interesting shapes because the shape or outline is important for a reverse silhouette. Although they may like the 3D shape of an object, they must consider how that will translate to a shape on the paper!

Decide if you are going to complete the art activity "in the field" (take all your spray bottles, paper, and other resources) or return to class. Think about clean-up, especially if you are painting in nature. What will be used to wipe paint off hands?

Remember to follow the Forager's Rule: "If a lot, take one. If a little, take none." Make sure you only gather items that have already fallen from trees and bushes rather than picking living leaves and flowers.



Spraying Silhouettes Activity Steps

- ① Head outside for a treasure hunt to find leaves with interesting shapes, and supplement with flowers, nuts, and sticks. Be sure to set the boundary so that children do not travel too far afield.
- ② Encourage children to search for items with a variety of outlines to create interest in their painting. Leaves, for example, can be a simple shape like an oval, and have fine hairs, rounded teeth, smooth edges, sharp points, or wavy undulations!
- ③ Once everyone has enough items in their collection it's time to start the art!
- ④ Spread out some newspaper and lay down the paper. If it is windy and you have stayed outdoors, place some rocks on the corners of the paper to weigh it down
- ⑤ Encourage the children to enjoy the process of spraying!
- ⑥ Once colours are chosen and the items are laid on the paper in a design, spray away! Encourage the children to try to cover most of the white space.
- ⑦ Leave the items on the paper or card while the painting dries. Then carefully lift off each piece to reveal the masterpiece!

Reflection/Discussion

Which shapes created the clearest silhouette?

Were any new colours created? **Secondary colours** (yellow + blue = green, yellow + red = orange, blue + red = purple)? Did the children use **complementary** colours such as blue/orange, green/red or purple /yellow or a selection of warm or cool colours?

Ask the children to describe their natural items using as many adjectives as possible. Ask the children to reflect on the lines and shapes they created. What stands out?

Decide as a class what to do with the artworks. Will you display them or use them for some other purpose?

Elaboration/Extension

Pour some paint onto a rectangular kitchen sponge on a plastic lid (otherwise the paint is too slippery). Dab a second sponge onto this paint then carefully press around the outline of the items.

Creating shadow portraits was a common way for people in the Victorian era to keep records of their family members. Try this by having a child stand in front of a light source and tracing the shape of their profile on to paper taped to the wall. Then the child paints the inside black or, for a reverse silhouette, paints the outside black.



Teacher Observations

What worked well:

What would I do differently next time:

Curriculum Links

Extra detail relevant to year groups can be found by following the Curriculum link to SCSSA. Elaborate on, extend, and integrate this activity with other learning areas where possible.

- *Kindergarten Curriculum Guidelines*
<https://k10outline.scsa.wa.edu.au/home/p-10-curriculum/kindergarten-curriculum-guidelines/learning-development-areas/learning>
- *School Curriculum and Standards Authority*
<https://k10outline.scsa.wa.edu.au/home/teaching/curriculum-browser/the-arts/visual-arts2>



Visit the website app.naturepassport.org (My Outdoor Classroom Activity Pack) to complete this activity and many more! Alternatively, download the free **Nature Passport** app from your **App Store**.

Visit www.naturepassport.org for more information and ideas.

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The development of this lesson plan is proudly supported by the Department of Education.

Print the Nature Passport Booklets for your students to use with this lesson!

