



Rainforest Mixed Media Composition

GRADES 6-8

Cross Curricular: Art, Science
and Art History

*Lesson Plan and Artwork by
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DESCRIPTION

Students will use mixed media on tiers of Crescent Mounting Board to depict their choice of a rainforest animal, insect or bird.



National Core Arts Standards-Visual

Creating

Anchor Standard #1: Generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and work.

Presenting

Anchor Standard #4: Analyze, interpret and select artistic work for presentation.

Responding

Anchor Standard #8: Interpret intent and meaning in artistic work.

Connecting

Anchor Standard #10: Synthesize and relate knowledge and personal experiences to art.

OBJECTIVES

- To enable students to study the rainforests and create a well balanced, composition of a rainforest creature using mixed media on elevated mounting board.

DIRECTIONS

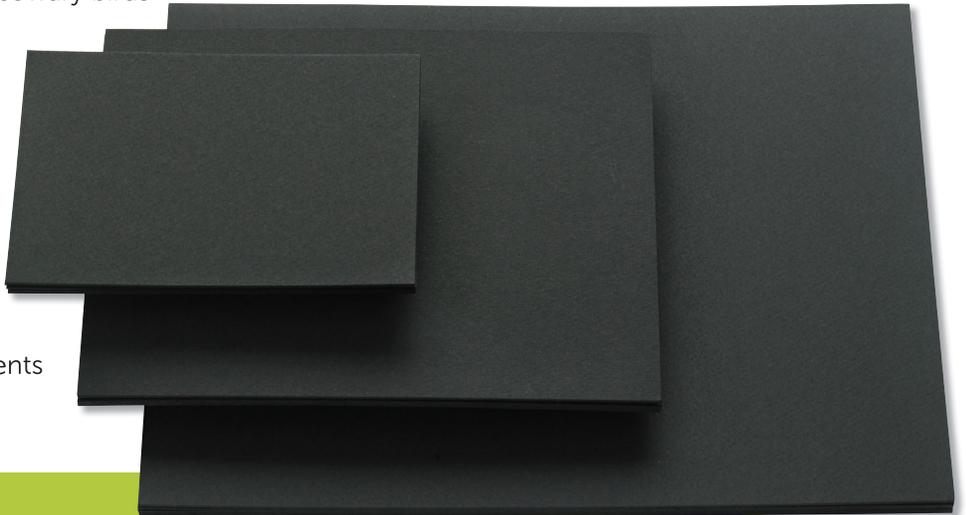
1. Inform students they will be researching rainforests to depict one particular plant, animal, insect or bird in a mixed media composition done on tiered layers of black mounting boards. Give a brief description of rainforests: an area where plants are self-watering because they release water into the atmosphere through a process of transpiration. Each tree canopy can release two hundred gallons of water into the air each year. The moisture creates a thick cloud cover that hangs over the atmosphere and keeps rainforests humid and warm. This creates an excellent habitat for plants and wildlife.
2. Show photos and paintings of rainforests, such as the work of Frederic Edwin Church entitled "Tropical Scenery", painted in 1873, or his "El Rio de Luz" painted in 1877. Church was a prominent member of the Hudson River School of artists who painted in Central and South America to depict the mountains, waterfalls and sunsets of the rainforests.

Give students a list of possible rainforests to research, e.g., Tasmanian Rainforest in Australia, and the rainforests of Costa Rica, Hawaii, Thailand, the Amazon and Brazil. Show photos of rainforest creatures and plants, e.g., the scarlet macaw of Brazil, the red-eyed tree frog of Columbia, Mexico and Central America, the colorful lizards of El Yunque National Forest in Puerto Rico, and cassowary birds of Australian rainforests.

Note: this lesson's subject is the two-inch red-eyed tree frog of Columbia, Central America and Mexico. It was chosen for its vivid colors and its ability to use camouflage to hide on leaves and then startle its predators when threatened with its big red eyes, bright orange webbed feet and colorful under belly.

3. Introduce, demonstrate and have students test the mixed media method with the supplies for their compositions.

4. Cut white drawing paper to 11" x 14" and instruct students to work out a composition highlighting their choice of subject matter. Show students they will be stacking three to four sizes of black mounting board, one on top of the other, to give an unusual perspective to their work. This helps highlight the main subject of the art work. Levels will be propped up with small stacks of mat board on the underside of the boards and, lastly, glued to one another. The overall size of their tiered work will be 11" x 14".
5. In this order, have students a) choose the number and size of mounting boards and position them in place with tape on the undersides, b) trace the shapes of the boards onto an 11" x 14" base, c) sketch very lightly the drawing on the boards or use transfer tape to transfer the drawings (use the textured side of the board when using as a drawing surface; the smooth side, when using as a mounting board), d) after the drawings are completed, remove the tape from the boards and start the mixed media process on each board, following the design. Place and glue stacks of mounting board on the underside of each board and glue in a tiered fashion, and e) display and evaluate work of self and others, and enjoy the completed rainforests mixed media compositions.



MATERIALS

Item #	Description
9-409658-739	Crescent® 8 Ultra-Black Mounting Board, 8 x 10", Pack of 10
9-1496108-739	Crescent® 8 Ultra-Black Mounting Board, 5 x 7", Pack of 40
9-1496110-739	Crescent® 8 Ultra-Black Mounting Board 11 x 14", Pack of 40
9-225222-739	Sargent Art® Gallery Oil Pastels, Metallic, Pack of 12
9-225219-739	Sargent Art® Gallery Oil Pastels, Fluorescent, Pack of 12
9-401340-739	Faber-Castell® Creative Studio Soft Pastels, Half-Stick, Set of 48
9-410803-739	Shiva® Artists Paintstik® Oil Colors, Set of 12
9-248880-739	Crayola® Metallic Crayons, Pack of 16
9-1439134-739	Jack Richeson™ Semi-Moist Pearlescent 12-Color Watercolor Set
9-443024-739	Aleene's® Original Tacky Glue®, 1 Pint Jar
9-358487-739	Saral® Transfer Paper in White (optional)
9-206312-739	Sax® Extra White Sulphite Drawing Paper 12 x 18", Pack of 500