



## **Roots & Shoots Day of Peace Project Ideas from Northern Light School, Concord, California**

NOTE: THESE ACTIVITIES ARE LARGE-SCALE, OFTEN PERMANENT ART INSTALLATIONS IN SCHOOLS, COMMUNITY CENTERS AND CHILDREN'S MUSEUMS.

### **Age Group: Preschool—Early Childhood (Grade One)**

#### **Multi-Media Collage: *Recycling and Art***

\*Encourages Community and Awareness of Ecology and Sustainability

Find a creative and artistic use for the following items:

- Plastic Milk Jug Caps
- Juice Bottle Caps
- Toothpaste Caps
- Newspaper
- Uncooked Pasta
- Colorful Candy Wrappers
- Twist-Ties from Bread, Fruit, Vegetables
- Stickers from Fruit and Vegetables
- Magazines
- Dried, used flowers
- Cardboard
- Old cereal, cracker, and oatmeal boxes

What You Will Need:

- Paint
- Paintbrushes
- School Glue
- Large Butcher Paper
- Water
- Soap
- Towels (Cloth, Please!)
- Workstation
- Supervising Adult

*This activity not only encourages community behavior in younger children, but also gives them options for artwork, helping to inform them of items that are recyclable or trash, and how to use such items in a more sustainable, practical and enjoyable way.*

1. Lay out the large butcher paper on your workstation.



2. Prepare the materials to be used: each item should belong in its own container, so as not to mix up the possible media (i.e., plastic caps in one container, twist ties in another container).
3. Prepare the paint, brushes and glue.
4. Fill a large bowl with water, keeping hand soap and towels close by (children will need this to clean their hands after working on this community masterpiece!).
5. Once visitors begin frequenting the station, ensure that your supplies are always ready to use, and that there is enough media for every artist!
6. Remind the children that this mural is meant to be something that everyone works on, and that the final masterpiece is a display of the incredible work of art EVERYONE has created together. The lasting memory should be that they enjoyed partaking in this activity with new friends, and learning about possible ways to creatively inspire sustainability.

### **Age Group: Elementary School—Adult**

**Children’s Sky of Aspirations:** *Peace, Prayer, Art*

\*Large-scale, open-ended activity. Must be done outdoors, in open space. Requires many materials.

Celebrate peace, global community, and the wishes of children all across this globe with this moving art activity.

What You Will Need:

- Art Supplies of Every Medium, Including, But Not Limited To:
- Paint
- Paintbrushes
- Colored Pencils
- Markers
- Chalk Pastels
- Oil Pastels
- Newspaper
- Magazine Clippings
- Glue
- Paper

In Addition, You Will Need:

- Natural Birch Wood Ornaments (Can be purchased at a craft store, in varying shapes and sizes)
- Yarn
- 500 Feet of Burlap Netting
- Eight Wooden Dowel Poles, approx 6’ in height



a program of the Jane Goodall Institute

*This activity, originally completed for the United Nations World Refugee Day in Barcelona in 2004, was re-created in September of 2004 in California for United Nations International Day of Peace. Over 500 children participated in this truly moving art installation, which has a permanent home at Northern Light School. It is represented by the hopes, wishes, and prayers of children, for children, contains handmade talismans in multiple languages, sizes, shapes, and colors. It is approximately 350 feet long, and over three feet wide. Originally completed outdoors, the installation now remains indoors to preserve the children's artwork.*

1. Attach the burlap netting to the six-foot wooden dowels, the length of the netting, and at least two and a half feet apart.
2. Set up the workstation, with the wooden ornaments, and all artistic mediums, and the yarn.
3. As children begin frequenting the station, allow them to artistically design their wish.
4. Put a time limit on this activity, and remind visitors to return at a specific time to place their talisman in the Sky of Aspirations.
5. As children return, alert all festival attendees that the first aspiration will be placed in the "sky".
6. As each aspiration is placed, the child artist shares his or her wish and hope for the world.
7. The burlap netting, with the talismans attached, can be preserved. Simply take down the netting and carefully roll it up, rolling the talismans INSIDE the netting.
8. Store in an area free of moths and indoor pests.

### **Age Group: Infant—Adult**

#### **Ceramic Tile Mural: Art, Issue Awareness**

\*This is a wonderful activity that is "smaller-scale", low-cost, and fun for any age.

#### What You Will Need:

- Permanent Markers
- Ceramic Tiles (Can be purchased or donated from hardware or home improvement store)

*This activity was first completed in 2006 and the tiles now complete a peace mural in Oakland, California. Over 100 tiles are included in this mural, from families of different cultural and ethnic backgrounds. However, the theme does not necessarily need to be "peace". Can be "wildlife protection", "sustainability", "water", "environment", "violence", etc.*

1. Prepare the workstation by laying out tiles and permanent markers.
2. As visitors frequent the station, remind the tile is to be a part of a permanent art installation.



3. Decide on the location of the tile installation and organize a day/time to install and place the first tile.
4. More tiles can be subsequently added as the mural is established.