LEAF AND FLOWER FABRIC ART

ITEMS NEEDED:
• Natural white fabric, 100% cotton works well, t-shirt, handkerchief, kitchen towel, etc.
• Hammer
• Masking tape
• Something you can hammer on (sturdy bench or table, wood block, etc.)
• Fresh flowers and leaves

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION:
Take a walk around your yard or neighborhood and collect some leaves and flowers. Then create fabric art by using the natural pigments in the plants.

Step 1: Read about natural plant pigments here: http://www.webexhibits.org/causesofcolor/7H.html

Step 2: Collect flowers and leaves. Try to find an assortment of different plants and different colors

Step 3: Tape down your flowers and leaves. Spread out your fabric on a worksurface that can get dirty and can withstand being pounded on by a hammer. Tape or weight your fabric down. Use masking tape to tape down your flowers and leaves. Think about your placement to get the look you want. Cover the leaves and flowers with tape so all the plant pigment will go into the cloth.

Step 4: Hammer away! Hammer over the tape making sure to pound evenly on all the areas with tape.

Step 5: Remove the tape and enjoy your art.

Discussion Questions:
Did the colors turn out as you expected? Why or why not? Which flowers and leaves had the brightest colors on the fabric? Why might that be?

Consider taking some photos and sharing your art with friends and family. You can also share what you learned about pigments.

How have natural dyes been used in the past?

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