garden art?

You might be asking, "Why would we learn about art in the garden? I only use it to teach my students about science!" •

Bringing art and the garden together allows students to:



Hone observational skills



Use multiple senses at once



Cultivate a sense of beauty and cooperation



, See everyday things like grass and flowers in new ways

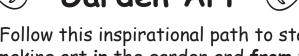


Create pleasant, beautiful outdoor spaces



Understand how to apply the same learning and cognitive skills to many different disciplines





Follow this inspirational path to start making art in the garden and from the garden!

On the other hand, you might wonder,

How can my art students work in a garden? Sure, we can draw some flowers and plants, but then what?"





Develop greater respect for natural resources



Learn about historical connections between art and nature



Feel a sense of ownership over the garden



Participate in interdisciplinary activities with increased relevance for everyday life

I'm ready to start making garden art! Now what should I do?

Use the projects on the back of this page for inspiration, and look for more ideas and detailed instructions on the web.

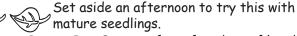


What am I getting myself into?

The following key indicates the time commitment and level of difficulty for each project.



Quick and easy...Perfect for little sprouts!







Prepare for a few days of hard work with seasoned green thumbs!



Sell Your Own Seeds: Collect seeds from mature vegetables and dried flowers, and create your seed packaging with clever text and fun illustrations. Check out http://centerschool.net/seedstore.html for examples of inspiring garden puns.

Leaf Rubbings: Gather leaves from plants in the garden, and record their texture with crayons or pencils to preserve fleeting bits of nature throughout the winter.

Sun Prints: Use sun-sensitive or blueprint paper to create beautiful records of treasures found in your garden.

Beautiful Beans: Harvested more beans than you want to eat? Use dried beans of different colors to create a beautiful mosaic. Glue the beans to a hard backing or press them into clay or dough.

For the Birds: Build on the early Native American tradition of drying, drilling, and hanging large gourds as houses for nesting birds. Polish the avian shelters or decorate them with acrylic paint.

Fabrics to Dye For: Experiment with the plants in your garden, or create a special dye garden. Try dyeing or tie-dyeing yarn, clothing, and other fabrics. For a great primer on dyeing, visit http://www.garden.org/articles/articles.php?q=show&id=943&page=1.

Garden Journals: Use fibrous plants to craft handmade paper and dyes from the garden to color the paper. Then, bind your creation into a journal to record changes in your gardens, drawings of the plants, poems, reflections and more! See http://www.kidsgardening.com/growingideas/projects/nov02/pg1.html#live for detailed paper-making instructions.

Use Recyclable Materials 🚙

Fork, Knife and Spoon Chimes: Hang decorated plastic cutlery from a paper plate or metal cutlery from a strong wooden base to create cheap, funky wind chimes for the garden.

Mini-Vases: Cover plastic bottles or stacked cups in gluey tissue paper to make unique vases for flowers from your garden.

Blooming Necklace: Nestle a few seeds among dampened cotton balls inside of an old film container. Use a screw eye hook and some yarn to make this mini-garden into a necklace so you can watch your plants' progress all day long!

Stepping Stones: Pour quick-drying concrete or Hypertufa (artificial stone) into a stepping stone mold. Decorate your stones with broken plates and pottery shards, old beads or marbles, leaves, rocks, and anything else you can find!

Garbage Garden: Use old tires, bicycles, appliances, heaps of metal, springs and coils, and chicken wire to create sculptures that express the personality of your garden and its caretakers. For inspiration, take a look at the Sculpture Garden at San Francisco Recycling and Disposal: http://www.sfrecycling.com/AIR/sculpturegarden.php?t=d.

For more garden art inspiration and ideas, visit

Cornell University's Garden-Based Learning Program website at

http://www.hort.cornell.edu/gbl.

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