

PROJECT INSPIRE LESSON PLAN

SEED MOSAIC PLANTER

Curriculum Objectives

Students will beautify terracotta flowerpots with mosaic patterns using a variety of seeds.

Students will identify different seeds and beans and will design and create a mosaic using seeds as their tesserae (tess-a-ray), or mosaic material.

Materials

- Terracotta pots
- Water sealant spray (even though these pots are meant for indoor use, the water sealant protects the glue from any moisture that may soak through the porous clay when the plant is watered)
- Seeds and beans of all kinds (red lentils, green lentils, chickpeas, black beans, navy beans, mung beans, pinto beans, popping corn, sunflower seeds, etc.)
- Ceramic mosaic glue
- Popsicle sticks
- Bowls

Activity

1. Spray all of the terracotta pots with the water sealant spray prior to beginning the activity. Follow the instructions on the container for drying times and safety precautions.
2. Introduce your students to the art of seed mosaics as you show them photos from books and online galleries. Crafting seed mosaics is a traditional Mexican art form that is made during harvest festivals and ceremonies.
3. As you prepare for this activity, encourage students to procure their own collection of seeds and beans from the garden and other outdoor areas.
4. Distribute a pot to each student and divide the students into small work groups at different tables. Ask the students to help you divide the seeds and beans up by color into bowls and then distribute the bowls to each group.

Details

Location: Stono Preserve

Lesson: Outdoors

Activity: Outdoors

Time of year: Anytime

Age: Elementary school

5. Encourage students to sketch out design ideas on paper before beginning their mosaic project. Once they begin, show them how to put a little bit of glue at a time on their pots, using a popsicle stick. They can either use the sticks to individually place the beans and seeds one at a time, for more refined designs, or for a quicker approach, they can pour a handful of seeds over the glued area.
6. When the mosaics are finished, put the pots somewhere out of the way to dry overnight.

(Taken from [Dig Art! Cultivating Creativity in the Garden](#))

Additional Resources

- [Seed Mosaic \(website with additional ways to create seed mosaics\)](#)
- [Make a Cool Seed-Decorated Mosaic Box – DIY Crafts – Guidecentral \(video\)](#)