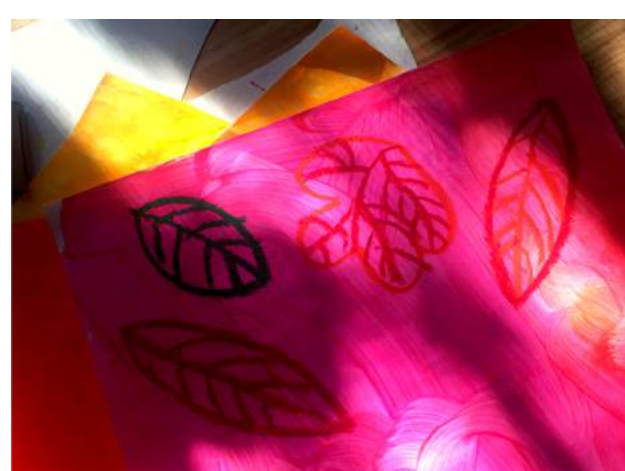


LET'S PAINT A PARROT!



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No I was not strolling through an exotic jungle, or hanging out with my pirate friends when I came up with this idea. Just walking through my neighborhood, a haven for wild parrots. Getting outside is an important part of our daily routine, and an excellent place to seek out inspiration. With their bright, beautiful colors and unmistakable chatter, it seemed only right to honor these cheerful birds with this project. I hope you love it!

YOU WILL NEED

- x4 sheets of white construction paper 8.5 x 11
- A piece of cardboard (thick card is also fine) 8.5 x 11
- Scissors
- Elmers glue or a low temp/child friendly glue gun
- A glue stick
- A pencil and eraser
- A large paintbrush and a small paint brush
- A sponge craft roller or kitchen sponge
- Green, yellow, red, orange, pink, blue and white acrylic or poster paints
- A selection of colorful makers (including black), crayons or oil pastels, and paint markers - you don't need them all, whatever you have is great!
- A penny
- A small/medium sized flat (ish) and straight(ish) stick to use as your branch
- Pot of water to clean brushes
- Paper towel to dry brushes
- Apron
- Protective cover for the surface you're working on

Now put on that apron, cover the table and....

LETS GET STARTED!



- Mix some white and blue paint together to make light blue. You will need some blue paint on it's own for step three, so don't use it all up! Then, using your large brush, paint the cardboard, (I used some from an Amazon box). Make sure you cover the whole surface, and don't dip your brush in water inbetween strokes :) When you're done, set cardboard aside to dry.

- Next, make sure your brush is clean and dry, then paint one sheet of paper with yellow and green paint. Have fun with the brush strokes! I used a wavy, feathery stroke on mine. Clean and dry your brush again, and then paint two more pieces with yellow, orange and or pink in any combination you like. Set aside to dry.

- When the cardboard is dry, grab your sponge or craft roller and dip it in just the blue paint. Gently dab or roll a layer of the what will look like darker blue on top of the light blue you painted in step 1. It should make a cool sky texture. Once you're done, set aside to dry.





TIME TO MAKE YOUR PARROT!

1. Position your dry greeny-yellow paper in front of you, tall side up. Using your pencil, draw a slightly stretched capital 'D' shape, (it should be a bit longer than the longest part of your hand, and half as wide).

2. Add a circle on top, and a shape that looks like an upside down shark's fin on the bottom.

3. Erase the pencil lines where the 'D' overlaps the circle and shark fin shapes.

4. Cut out your parrot body. Next, draw a wing which isn't longer, or wider, than the parrot. A sort of stretched teardrop shape which curves up slightly at the tip.

5. Cut out the wing and put the remaining green paper to one side, we'll need it later.

6. To make the beak, take another piece of painted paper. (I chose my orange one, but it can be any color you like!) Draw a shape that looks like a serving of ice cream right from an ice cream machine. Use your pencil to figure out how to make it about as tall as mine, and just as wide.



6.



KEEP IT UP, YOUR PARROT'S NEARLY READY!

- You should have one piece of white paper left, - lay it out in front of you. Then take your parrot body, wing and beak and lay them on top of the paper. Using oil pastels, crayons, markers, paint markers or color pencils, outline the edges of each shape. I recommend using a darker shade of green for the wing and body and dark orange or yellow for the beak, I also added feather details on the wing and body for some extra fun!
- Next, grab a glue stick and glue the pieces together. When you're applying glue to the wing and beak, make sure to do it on top of the white paper so as to avoid getting sticky glue marks on the art work or table. Glue the beak by attaching it behind the head, and positioning it quite high up, (if you look at a picture of a parrot, its beak is almost level with the top of its skull).
- Once the wing and beak are attached, use your small brush to add a bit of red paint to the head and wings.
- Lastly, using a black marker trace around a penny. You guessed it, this will be your parrots eye! Draw a dot in the middle for it's pupil, cut it out and stick it on!



NOW IT'S TIME TO MAKE THE LEAVES!

- Choose some brightly colored materials to draw leaf shapes onto your orange, yellow, pink and left over greeny-yellow painted paper. (I liked how oil pastels and paint markers looked best, so I used those!)
- Try making different sizes and shapes. Collect a couple of different leaves from outside and look at the patterns veins make. You can use your imagination, too.
- Cut out the leaves.



OK... LET'S PUT IT ALL TOGETHER!
First, glue the stick on to the bottom half of your blue cardboard background with a glue gun. (If you're using Elmers runny craft glue, I recommend waiting for it to dry before doing the next part). Then, place the leaves on and around your branch, (see which colors and sizes look best next to one another). Double check how it looks with your parrot on top, and if you love it, glue stick it all into place and....

Ta-daa! Put it on your wall with pride, or send it to someone you love. Good work :)

