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Activity Idea

Rock Painting

Recommended for Ages 8 – 18 years

Are you walking as an exercise or just to get out of the house? Be on the lookout for interesting shaped rocks and colors. Grab some, while you're strolling through your neighborhood or check out your back yard for some. Start a new rock painting hobby and take your artistic skills to a new level.

Materials:

- Rocks, any color or shape
- Acrylic paint
- Markers

Instructions:

1. Start by washing and scrubbing your rocks with soap and water. Make sure you get rid of any dirt they may have.
2. Take a good look at your rock and see if you can imagine a figure on it. Does it look like a resting cat, a droopy dog, is it perfectly round for a mandala?
3. Take a dark marker and draw your design. Don't have a design in mind? No problem, go ahead and start drawing whatever comes to mind.
4. Once you are happy with your drawing, it is time to start painting.
5. Paint your lighter colors first and then continue with your dark.
6. If you are thinking of blending colors you can switch it up, it's up to you.

Tips:

- Pick smooth, flat rocks. You can decorate any rock, but it's harder to decorate ones with broken edges or ridges.
- Make sure your rocks are dirt free and dry before painting them.
- Paint in layers, wait until your paint dries before starting another layer on top.
- This is optional, but you can prime your rocks by painting them with white paint before starting your design.
- Use small brushes for details. Use dark markers to make shadow lines or to frame your image.

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- If you mess up or are not happy with the result, wash your rock right away, take the paint off and start again.
- Keep a wet towel or napkin to clean up mistakes right away.
- If you will be displaying your rock outside, make sure you seal them with Modpodge glue or any other type of acrylic sealer. If you don't have any of these things, keep your rock inside so the paint won't fade.