

“Stained Glass” Flowers

Form translucent “petals” by applying flexible paint to colored wires

(art + science)

Wonderful, colorful flowers can be created with a transparent, flexible paint called “Arti’ Stick.” Originally formulated for creating window clings, this unique paint also sticks to wire and dries within 24 hours to create poseable petals for flowers. Bind them together with green masking tape for a glass-like bloom!

To link this project with the science of botany, have students study the anatomy of a flower, then create and identify its parts, as follows:

- 1) petals
- 2) pistil (female reproductive organs)
- 3) stamen (male reproductive organs)
- 4) calyx (small petals beneath the flower)
- 5) stem
- 6) leaves

GRADES 3-8 Note: instructions and materials are based upon a class size of 24 students. Adjust as needed.

Process

1. Select Twisteez Wires in colors that match the intended petal color as closely as possible. Cut the wire into 10” pieces, five wires per flower. Bend a loop in one end of each wire and twist once to secure it, see (A).
2. Cut the sheet protector open and lay it flat on a piece of cardboard so it can be moved while wet. Place the loop on the sheet, pressing it as flat as possible against the sheet. With a soft brush, paint the inside of the loop with Arti’ Stick color, right onto the sheet protector.

HINTS:

- Paint the loop area right up to and even across the wire. Excess paint can be removed with scissors after drying.
- Use a thick coat of paint. The paint is self-leveling and will dry thinner than it appears when wet.

Allow to dry for 24 hours (under normal conditions; high humidity may slow drying time). The dry petals will still feel slightly sticky.



(A)

Materials

Pebeo[®] Arti’ Stick Window Cling Paint, 500 ml bottles, assorted colors (00700-); share at least two bottles among class

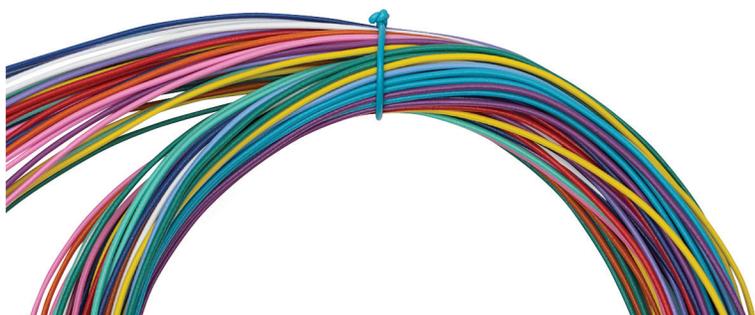
Dynasty[®] Economy Camel Hair Brushes, set of 144 (05118-9144); share among class

Twisteez[®] Wire, package of 50 wires (33407-1050); need two wires per student.

Non-glare sheet protectors, available from office supply stores; need one per student

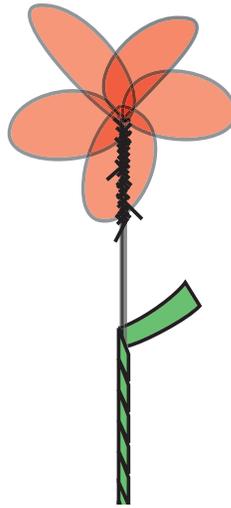
Heavy corrugated cardboard

Green Masking Tape (23008-7000), share five rolls across classroom



Process, continued

3. Create the center — the pistil and stamen of the flower. To create the pistil, cut a Twisteez wire into a 6" piece, and bend it into a long, narrow loop. The stamens are made by cutting wire of a contrasting color into 4-5 pieces, approximately 3" in length. Curl one end of each stamen around a pencil.
4. After the petals are dry, peel the loops from the sheet protector. Notice that one side of the petal will have a slight texture. Place the texture on the underside of the petal. Twist a stamen wire around each petal in the front, then twist the long ends of the petal wire together, and trim them to different lengths to form a tapering stem.
5. Wrap the stem with green masking tape. Bend and form the petals into a realistic shape, see (B).



(B)

Options:

- Blend and marbleize the colors to look like stained glass.
- Add glitter while the paint is wet.
- Create leaves by bending the green wire into a leaf shape and following the same steps. Twist the leaf onto the stem prior to applying masking tape.

National Standards for Visual Arts Education

Content Standard #1 — Understanding and applying media, techniques, and processes.

K-4 Students use different media, techniques, and processes to communicate ideas, experiences, and stories

5-8 Students intentionally take advantage of the qualities and characteristics of art media, techniques, and processes to enhance communication of their experiences and ideas

Content Standard #6 — Making connections between visual arts and other disciplines.

K-4 Students understand and use similarities and differences between characteristics of the visual arts and other arts disciplines

5-8 Students describe ways in which the principles and subject matter of other disciplines taught in the school are interrelated with the visual arts



Assemble the petals to form a flower.



Wrap the wires with green masking tape to hold the petals together and create a stem.