

Paper, tape, scissors, glue

- paper folding (bracelets/chains, origami animals, hats, cups)
- paper folding into books, pocket books
- collages of geometric paper shapes (cut with scissors)
- collages of torn scrap paper of any kind
- collages with paper balls glued on (blossoms, clouds, etc.)
- collect scraps of different kinds of paper to make paper
- on homemade paper:
 - write something important
 - make impressions
 - add plant parts to make decorative paper or a picture
- make puppets from drawn figures or photographs; fasten to sticks for stick puppets
- make puzzles by gluing pictures onto cardboard, then cutting into pieces

Mud, homemade dough or clay

- impressions (of collected nature items, finger or handprints)
- figures (person or animal)
- shapes decorated with found items (pebbles, etc.)
- handmade pot to place a scroll into
- pot in which to bury something to be dug up later
- shapes formed by hand or rolled out and cut as pieces for a mobile (be sure to make holes for hanging)
- mud makes wonderful paint, just add water and experiment—works especially well on fabric or thick paper
- mix together two cups of flour, one cup of salt, one cup of water, one tablespoon of oil and a few drops of food coloring for an easy-to-make dough that will keep for about three weeks if you wrap it and keep it in the fridge.

Twigs

- picture frame made from collected twigs
- mobile made from twigs, string and found items (feathers, leaves, shells)
- twigs tied together and twisted into people shapes or other shapes
- paint on paper using twigs (twisted or leafy) instead of brushes (mud paint!)
- make a miniature garden in an old container using twigs for trees, moss for grass, pebbles for a rockery, even a waterfall and water pool made from a jar lid

Rocks

- stacked trail marker for games (stack and use glue, mud or cement to keep together)
- write on rocks with markers or paints
- collect rocks to set in a small, shallow tray of cement, mud or grout to make a small mosaic, a stepping stone or trivet

Ideas for Activities with Few Supplies

- decorate rocks to look like something else—animal, person, etc.

Bark

- write or draw on it, tie it up with grass (birch, eucalyptus, from a dead tree of any kind)
- make an item tied together or sewn together from bark (little boat, house, etc)

Fabric

- sew fabric scraps together to make quilt from class members' old, worn-out clothes as a service project
- students collect fabric scraps from people important to them and make collages
- throw a bedsheet or large piece of fabric over a table to improvise a tent or other structure; place cushions on the floor and tell a story inside

Sand

- paint piece of cardboard with glue and sprinkle or lay sand, soil, tiny stones, etc. onto glue
- collect soil or sand from several places to use (various colors and textures)
- make a beach or desert scene in a container, adding shells, stones, blue fabric or paper for water, etc.

Seeds

- collect seeds to make impressions, glue down to make collages or to set into mud or cement to make a mosaic.
- collect seeds and plant them in a shallow discarded pan or broken dish
- make a dish garden: Place some stones down first for drainage, then add soil; plant the seeds and water them daily.

Plants

- Lay any kind of plants between two pieces of fabric or non-shiny paper in any pattern you like. Pound with a rock until all the color has come out onto both sheets of paper. Roll off the smashed flowers and leaves. You will have two beautiful pictures!
- weave plucked plants to make wreaths, headbands, etc. and let them dry.
- make potpourri (dry plants with good smells, crush them up together)

Leaves

- trace around leaves on paper or fabric for a collage
- place paper over leaves and make a leaf rubbing by holding crayon or charcoal horizontally and rubbing entire paper
- paint leaves or dip them in paint, then press them against paper to make a print

Ideas for Activities with Few Supplies

Empty boxes

- Save empty grocery boxes and bags; make “play money” and set up a shop for play-acting
- Large boxes (such as appliance boxes):
 - Push in the ends of large ones to make tunnels and caves to crawl through.
 - Draw on windows and doors to make a house, add a flag and portholes for a boat or add a plate as a steering wheel for a car.