



POTATO ART

Overview/Description: Paint garden pictures using potatoes as stamps.

Big Idea: Art is good for you!

Season: Any

Lesson Time: 30 minutes

Grade Level: Any

Type of Activity: Art

Materials Needed: Cutting board, knife, washed potatoes, Tempera or other washable paint, paintable table or cloth, paint cloths, paper towels or napkins, paper plates (one per color), paint shirts, paper for painting.

Preparation: Adults will prepare the stamps: Wash and dry potatoes. Cleanly cut each potato in half (two stamps). Draw or trace the design you want as your stamp onto the potato with a pen or fine point marker, or free-hand the design cut. Cut around the shape you just drew with a $\frac{1}{4}$ " depth. Your shape will be the part that protrudes from the rest of the potato. Pour each color of paint into a paper plate.

What to do:

- In the Opening Circle, students learn they will be making a garden picture out of the different shapes, not just doing random stamping. Have them decide before they start what they want to paint.
- Paint shirts on.
- Dip the potato stamp into the paint, dab off any extra paint so the print doesn't squish when you press it against the paper.
- Press against the paper!
- Write names on them.
- Allow to dry.

Teaching Points:

- What is another item from the garden you would like to use to paint?
- How do you feel when you make art?
- Plants can be useful for things other than eating (art, dyes, twine and rope; trees make paper products and houses)

Notes:

- You can reuse the stamps with different colors of paint after rinsing them under water and drying off completely or wiping off with a paper towel.
- It should take about 20 minutes to wash and carve the potatoes so make sure they are ready before kids are coming to the garden.

For extended lessons:

- Have students choose a plant item from the garden to do a personal stamp.

