

Sun Print Art

SIXTH GRADE

Making nature art using sun print paper is a great way to teach kids about the sun and shadows. It also encourages them to observe shapes, patterns, and the various sizes of leaves, plants, and other objects in nature. Sun print paper has special qualities that react with exposure to sunlight, creating gorgeous art displays. This project is best to do on a sunny day.

SUBJECT

ART

TIME

30 MIN - 45 MIN

Move between inside and outside

MATERIALS

Light-sensitive paper, 1 sheet per student

Cardboard (slightly larger than the paper), 1 per student

Pushpins, at least 2 per student

Interesting objects found around the garden: leaves, flowers, flower petals, clover, seed pods

Cardstock, 1 per student

Tub of water to rinse the paper

Paper towels for the prints to lay and dry on

DIRECTIONS

- Take students on a walk through the garden to collect objects for their sun prints. Show students an example of a sun print, so they have an idea of the finished project.
- Due to direct sunlight quickly exposing the paper, the next steps should be done indoors with the lights **OFF**.
 - Pin a sheet of light-sensitive paper to a sheet of cardboard.
 - Arrange a collection of garden objects on the paper, avoiding overlapping. Place a piece of cardboard or cardstock on top to keep in place when transporting outside.
- Go outside and set each paper in the sun for 2-5 minutes. The areas of the paper exposed to the sun will fade from blue to white. When most of the color disappears from the paper, the print has been fully exposed. If no direct sunlight is available, expose the print for a few more minutes.
- Once the exposed paper has turned almost white, remove the objects and rinse the paper in water to stop the chemical reaction. As the paper is submerged, the white will turn to blue, and the blue will turn to white. Leave each paper in the water for 1-5 minutes.
- Lay the sun prints out on a paper towel and allow them to dry. You can use a paper towel or a piece of cardboard.

SOURCE

Adapted from:

- Run Wild My Child | [Sun Print Paper Nature Art](#)

