

Earth day Fish

Here in Louisiana, we are very aware of how important our wetland ecosystem is. The fish that contribute to this ecosystem are part of our daily lives throughout the state. Here's a fun make-at-home art project that will give your child an opportunity to learn about wildlife while making it. For the demonstration, we used a dried bean for an eye and dry rice for air bubbles. Try adding as many un-recyclable objects as possible to convert trash into art!

Ages 4 – 8

Materials

3 paper plates (the thinner the better for cutting)

Scissors (safety scissors are best)

White Glue

Paint – finger paint or tempera or watercolor OR washable markers

A paint brush

Cup of Water for the brush

Pencil

Largish sheet of paper or board, at least 12" on all sides

Old newspaper or grocery circulars

Step 1:

Lay down some newspaper on a table. Paint the backs of each plate and let dry completely. You can paint (or draw with marker) as little or as much as you want. Be sure to get the curved part of the plate, at least 2 inches around. Try using a different color for each plate.

Step 2:

Cut each plate in half. Choose one of the halves to cut in half again. Set the quartered plates aside.



Step 1 in photos



Step 2 in photos



Step 3:

Draw a half circle on the INSIDE (food side) of the plates. This should be smaller, or within, the compressed/stamped part of the plate. Draw several "U" shapes extending from the half circle to the edge of the plate (think flower petals). Cut them out and place in a pile. These are the fish scales.



Step 3 as two photos

Step 4:

Choose one quartered plate and put a little glue on the flat unpainted side. Press down on your paper. This is the tail of the fish.

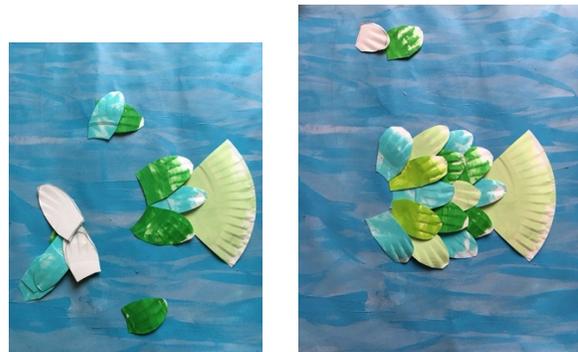
Step 4 in photos



Step 5:

Start gluing some scales down to the paper by placing a dot of glue on the flat unpainted part of the plate and press onto your paper with the curved part overlapping the tail. Continue gluing scales down until you are ready to add the other quartered piece of plate as the head. Add an eye, mouth, and anything else you want to create the fish's ecosystem!

Step 5 as two photos



Other ideas:

Don't have paper plates? Try using a paper grocery bag! Paint, draw and cut out scales the same way. Or turn the fish scales into feathers and make a bird!