

PROtect OUR PLAnet

ACTIVITY: FROM NATURE TO ART



From Nature to Art: Explore, Create, Protect

Facilitator Tip:

Before beginning, explain to your learners that the **Protect Our Planet** project invites them to become explorers of the natural world. By observing the air, land, and water around them, asking questions, and expressing their discoveries through creativity, they will gain a deeper appreciation for the environment and be inspired to think about how they can care for it.

Also, relate to your learners that their artwork is more than a creative activity; it is an opportunity to make a real-world impact. Through Students Rebuild, every completed piece of creative expression submitted to the project helps generate a \$5 donation to support a partner organization working to protect the planet and its inhabitants. Encourage learners to look closely, create thoughtfully, and use their artwork to celebrate and care for the natural world.



This activity is designed to be flexible and can be adapted to meet your learners' developmental needs. Encourage younger students to focus on observing and creating, while inviting older students to add deeper thinking through research, reflection, more detailed labeling, or discussion.



1. Go Outside

Take a short walk around your schoolyard, backyard, or another outdoor space. Look closely at the colors, textures, shapes, and patterns you see in nature.

2. Find Nature's Colors

Collect (or draw) interesting natural elements that match the descriptors below. Don't settle for the first example you find. Instead, look for items that resonate and tell the story of their natural environment.

- Something green
 - Something brown
 - Something soft
 - Something round
 - Something smooth
 - Something rough
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3. Create

Arrange your found items on a blank piece of paper or canvas. Move your items to compose a nature picture or colorful collage. Think about how you want to integrate natural patterns that reflect the local environment into the design. As you create, think about whether each item comes from the air, is connected to land, or is connected to the water, or maybe all three.

4. Add Creative Details

Use markers, crayons, or colored pencils to add drawings, patterns, or backgrounds that bring your artwork to life. You might include the sun, clouds, raindrops, flowers, insects, or other natural elements to create a complete scene inspired by the environment you explored.

5. Label It

Give your artwork a creative title. Label each item as air, land, or water, and add one descriptive word, such as *smooth*, *bright*, *rough*, or *soft*.

For older students: Instead of using descriptive words, add labels that explain each item's role in nature, such as "provides shelter", "supports pollinators", "helps clean the air", or "prevents erosion."

6. Share & Make an Impact

Share your collage with a partner or the class. Explain which item is your favorite and why. Also, ask each other the following questions:

- "Which item on the collage would you want to keep, and why?"
- "What actions can people take to protect that item and its element, whether it is air, land, or water?"

Make an Impact

To participate in the Students Rebuild Protect Our Planet Project, submit your learners' completed collages to studentsrebuild.org. Each eligible submission helps generate a \$5 donation to support partner organizations working to protect people and the planet.

