



Nature | Education

GET TO KNOW
CONNECT • CREATE • CELEBRATE

GRAB N' GO ACTIVITY:
Natural Portraits

OVERVIEW:

A fun way to get outside and explore what nature has to offer. Teaches children about art in nature and how to appreciate what is around them.

MATERIALS:

- No Materials Needed

GROUP SIZE:

- Individual or groups

ALTERNATIVE:

Suggest to the children that they could design portraits of other beings – monsters/ wood spirits – let them decide the theme!



Submit your work to the Get to Know Contest for a chance to win wild prizes & go to

GETTOKNOW.CA

to find more free resources and activities

Activity Source

<http://www.christchurchschool.cc/>

Ages: 6 - 13

Time: 30 - 45 minutes

PROCEDURE

Gather the group together in an outdoor area such as a beach, forest, or park.

Discuss what portraits are, and then say that they are going to make self portraits – but the only problem is – you have forgotten pens, paper and paintbrushes. What can you do? The children will probably leap to suggest they can use the natural materials around them!

Let the children decide if they want to design individually or in twos or small groups. This will vary with age and confidence.

Talk about the features of a face they may need to include – ears, nose, hair etc and encourage or suggest some useful materials like fluffy seeds for eye-brows for example.

Set some environmentally aware ground rules in terms of parts of plants to collect/ leave alone. Otherwise agree only to collect plentiful loose materials such as fallen leaves/grasses.

Talk about framing their portraits – what could they use? Sticks or twigs for example, of equal lengths. Discuss contrasting backgrounds – so the image is clear rather than blending in with the background – and how they may choose the backdrop to display the image.

Let them spend time gathering materials and making self portraits. Are the faces happy or sad?