

Crafts

Bear and Goose Collages

Bears have fur, and geese have feathers ... or is it the other way around? Maybe bears have scales and geese have translucent multicolored skin? Allow children to experiment with many different colors and textures by creating these bear and goose collages.

Materials needed:

- Bear and goose templates (you will find these in the reproducible pages) cut out of contact paper, poster board or construction paper
- Glue of your choice (if not using contact paper)
- Collage materials, possibly including:
 - Feathers
 - Fabric scraps
 - Cotton balls
 - Fake fur scraps
 - Leaves
 - Paper scraps
 - Tissue paper, wrapping paper, colored cellophane, sandpaper, etc.
 - Googly eyes
 - Anything else you can think of

Activity:

The children will glue the materials they choose onto their templates (or stick the materials directly to the contact paper).

As they work or after they finish, ask questions:

- Have you ever seen a bear/goose that looks like that?
- Why do you suppose your bear/goose has blue skin/a leaf on its back/feathers/etc? (encourage storytelling)
- Why did you choose the materials you chose for your project?

*Standards: CA 1.3 Select different media to express emotions and ideas.
PH 2.3 Demonstrate eye-hand coordination.*

Texture Painting

This is a variation on the Bear and Goose collages that allows children to explore the concept of texture in a two-dimensional picture. Look at the texture in Suzanne Bloom's illustrations for inspiration!

Materials needed:

- Bear and Goose cutouts (in the reproducible pages) on cardstock or heavy paper
- Tempera paint – no more than three colors (let the main variety be in the tools used)
- Texture tools:
 - Sponge pieces (both foamy and natural-type varieties)
 - Feathers
 - Sandpaper scraps
 - Fabric scraps – cotton, burlap, velour ...
 - Cotton balls
 - Fake fur scraps
 - Leaves
 - Anything else you can think of!

Pour small amounts of paint into separate shallow trays or plates, and then split up the texture tools among each color.

The children can use the tools of their choice to paint their bears and geese.

As they paint, ask questions:

- How are the marks you made with this tool different from the ones you made with another tool?
- Which marks look the most like Bear's real fur/Goose's real feathers? (Is it the marks made by fur and feathers, or is it something else?)
- Does pressing lightly/pressing hard/rubbing the tool make a different mark?

*Standards: CA 1.1 Show curiosity and explore visual materials and activities.
PH 2.4 Demonstrate increasing control with writing and drawing implements.*

Shape Bears and Geese

Materials needed:

- Copies of Bear Shapes and Goose Shapes Templates (in the reproducible pages), one per child
- Scissors
- Glue, tape or brass fasteners
- Coloring supplies

Activity:

There are two options, depending on your group and what you want to focus on.

An older group can start with a copy of the template and practice their scissors skills by cutting out all the shapes.

With a younger group, you may want to precut all the shapes. Now the project focuses on identifying shapes and following directions.

Tell the directions to the children step-by-step, so they can choose the proper shapes and place them in the proper spaces. Shapes fit together on the small circles. As an option you can use brass fasteners at the joints so the final projects have moving limbs.

Afterward, the children may color the bears and geese however they choose.

Standards: RL 1.2 Follow simple and multiple-step directions.

LM 3.1 Recognize, name, describe, build, draw and compare two and three dimensional shapes.

LM 3.5 Understand directionality, order and positions of objects, using words such as up, down, over, under, top, bottom, inside, outside, in front, of, behind.

Friendship Quilt

Materials needed:

- Base quilt squares, either construction paper or fabric
- Decorative items (pick and choose):
 - crayons, markers or paint (fabric markers/paint if using fabric)
 - glitter, sequins or shiny material
 - ribbon, tissue paper, paper scraps or other collage material
 - glue (fabric glue if using fabric)

Activity:

Each child/visitor decorates their square any way they choose on the theme of friendship. Have them sign their name to the front of the square and leave the square at your center.

When all the squares are collected, or as you go along, attach them together in the shape of a quilt. Here are several methods you can choose:

- Glue each square into rows and columns on a colorful sheet of butcher paper. Leave a small gap between each square so that the color of the butcher paper shows through, surrounding all the squares in a unifying way.
- Glue each square directly to other squares on the edges.
- Cut long strips of paper or fabric, and glue each square to the strips.
- Sew the squares together if fabric is used. Or better yet ...
- **Do you know any real quilters who would want to come in and demonstrate their craft?** Volunteer quilters could take all your fabric squares and sew them into a real, proper quilt. After being displayed in your center you can even donate the real quilt, then, to a hospital, care home, shelter or other place that could use it. What a collective act of friendship!

After the quilt is assembled, display it in your center for everyone who took part to see it, and to show off all the many friends who worked together to make it.

Standards: CA 1.2 Demonstrate the ability to represent experiences, thoughts, and ideas through the use of visual art forms.

SS 1.4 Show understanding of how individuals work together to achieve group goals.

Dancing Bears and Geese

Supplies needed:

- Long piece of brown paper or butcher paper
- White and orange paint
- Paint brush
- Music

Instructions:

- Lay a large sheet of brown paper on the ground
- Ask children if they want to be goose or bear and paint feet accordingly
(Orange for Goose, white for Bear)

Turn on the music and let the children dance on the paper.

The Honking Goose

Supplies Needed:

- 1 plastic cup, preferably white
- 1 yard of thick cotton cording
- 1 piece of sponge 1"x2"
- Black permanent marker
- Small piece of yellow felt

Instructions:

- Make two holes, one inch apart at the bottom of a white plastic cup
- String cotton cording through each hole and knot ends together, leaving a 3- inch tail on the ends.
- Using the remaining tie, tie a sponge to the string
- Lightly dampen sponge and wrap around top of strings
- Pull sponge firmly down making a honking sound.

Torn Paper Polar Bear and Goose

Supplies needed:

- Blue and white construction paper
- Glue
- Colored markers or crayons

Directions:

- Give child a sheet of blue paper and a sheet of white paper
- Ask the child to make a polar bear or goose by tearing pieces of white paper and gluing them on to the blue paper
- When glue is dry have child use markers to draw polar bear's ears, eyes, mouth and paws and Goose's bill , eyes and feet.