

Photo-Safari with Flowers



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An idea from:

JFF-Institut für Medienpädagogik

tested with **Integrationskindergarten Westendstrasse, Munich, Germany**

Age: 4-6 years

Keywords: #nature #photography #images #environment #colours #art

Key question:

- Is there a change of perspective to the world when you look at nature through a camera?
 - Can you identify flowers and plants using a digital media device?
 - Can you express your perspective on nature by creating artwork yourself?
 - Is it possible to support a constructive learning process in kindergarten and at home with collaborative learning tools?
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General objectives:

- Learn to use photography as a design, expression, communication, and presentation medium.
 - Express own perspectives on the world and certain topics using photography.
 - Try out photographic design elements (e.g., perspectives, detail, focus, filter) and get to know their effect.
 - Evaluate your own photos, select photos, and delete photos.
 - Using digital tools like an app for plant identification to explore nature and gain knowledge about flora and fauna.
 - Acquire knowledge about flora and fauna by internet research and sharing information with collaborative tools.
 - Expanding personal skills like looking closely, consciously perceiving surroundings and joy of discovery.
 - Be creative and express feelings. Be inspired by artists and create artwork yourself.
 - Be active and get in contact with nature
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Time: 3 activities of 30 minutes each for a total of about 1,5 h

Materials

At school	At Home
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● tablet or digital camera + PC ● paper for painting ● crayons/pens/brushes and paint ● printer ● padlet-account to create a board 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● tablet, smartphone, or digital camera + PC ● paper for painting ● crayons/pens/brushes and paint ● possibly a printer

Software/ Apps:

<p>Flora Incognita</p> <p>Objective: Plant identification</p> <p>Media: Tablet, Smartphone</p> <p>Link: https://apps.apple.com/us/app/flora-incognita/id1297860122</p> <p>https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.floraincognita.app.floraincognita&hl=en_US&gl=US</p> <p>Alternatives</p> <p>Plantnet https://apps.apple.com/de/app/plantnet/id600547573</p> <p>https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=org.plantnet&hl=de&gl=US</p>	<p>Padlet</p> <p>Objective: Collaborative work in one document and presentation</p> <p>Media: Tablet, Smartphone, PC</p> <p>Link: https://apps.apple.com/us/app/padlet/id834618886</p> <p>https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.wallwisher.Padlet&hl=en_US&gl=US</p> <p>Alternatives</p> <p>Taskcards https://www.taskcards.de/#/home</p>	<p>Frag FINN</p> <p>Objective: Search engine for children</p> <p>Media: Tablet, Smartphone, Internet</p> <p>Link: https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.impaddo.fragfinn&hl=de</p> <p>https://apps.apple.com/de/app/fragfinn/id575127977</p> <p>Alternatives in German: Blinde Kuh</p>
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Short Presentation

The activity is suitable for a group of 6 children aged 4-6 years. In kindergarten 2-3 tablets for taking pictures or digital cameras are needed. At home a tablet or smartphone can be used for taking pictures. For plant identification the free app Flora Incognita must be downloaded.

Taking photos with the tablet is very easy and children can use the device independently after a quick tutorial with the educator. But children should not just snap pictures. They learn to take and select photos consciously. They can review photos, reflect on the content, and learn that beauty is seen subjectively.

Young children who cannot read are able to distinguish different plants through photos and use an app for plant identification together with adults. This way adults and children can spend time together in nature and learn about flora and fauna.

Nature has always been a great inspiration for famous painters. Through the close observation of flowers and plants, creativity is stimulated, and feelings can be expressed. To explore different artworks and learn about paintings, children accompanied by adults can use children's search engines on the Internet and have their first experience of image search.

Step by Step

Step 1 --- <i>At school</i>	<p>Preparation: Use https://unsplash.com/ to find free photos of different flowers or draw simple flowers on paper. Pictures can match feelings like happy, sad, angry.</p> <p>Group: 1 educator + 6 children</p> <p>Ritual to start: The educator shows 3 simple graphics of different flowers to express feelings. Ask the children: What flower are you today?</p> <p>Go on a photo safari using tablets or digital cameras: Take the children outside in the garden or a park. The task is to take pictures of objects, plants, and flowers with the color red (pink, purple, orange is possible). 2 or 3 children using one tablet or a camera together accompanied by the educator. Use the camera device to take pictures. After taking pictures, review the results in the group and bring the photos in order using categories like "matching color", "out of focus", "duplicate". Decide which photos can be deleted.</p> <p>For sharing upload the results on a padlet: Title "The world is red". Use comments to get in contact with parents and children at home.</p>
	<p>For distance learning</p> <p>Parents take the child outside in the garden. Or stay at home and use</p>

different rooms, balcony, or terrace. Go on a photo safari. The task is to take pictures of objects, plants, and flowers with the color red (pink, purple, orange is possible). Children can use the camera of a tablet, smartphone, or a digital camera.

Online activity: For sharing parents can upload the result to the padlet board from kindergarten: "The world is red". Parents help the children (typing text) to leave comments to get in contact with educators and children in kindergarten. Children can vote for pictures (click on hearts).

Step 2

At
home

Online activity: Look together at the photos the children in kindergarten have made using the padlet board.

Parents ask the child: Do you know the name of a flower or plant shown in the pictures? The child chooses 3 photos. Parents save 3 photos of red flowers or plants to a tablet or smartphone.

Parents open the app **Flora Incognita** on the tablet or smartphone. Together with the child, parents use the app to identify the plants by scanning the photo and learn something about the plant (description, category, species, feature etc.) by research. Children can compare pictures and choose the right match in the search results. Parents can read the results to the children and then enter the name in the padlet board for sharing.



Step 3

At
school

Ask the children: **Why do flowers have different colors?** => Insects are attracted to colors and that is important for flora and fauna.

Additional information for the educator: insects like bees have a different vision. E.g., they can't see red like humans. They only have vision in the ultraviolet spectrum and can see blue, green, and yellow. Red is like black for bees.

Use a search engine for children (Frag FINN) if you need more information.

Variation: Use an ultraviolet filter with the camera to show children the visual effect with the tablet. Or print out examples from the website www.naturfotograf.com.



Björn Rorslett, Science Photo Library
http://www.naturfotograf.com/UV_flowers_list.html

Overall, colorful flowers are always very beautiful to look at and famous artists are inspired to make wonderful paintings. Show the children some examples of famous flower paintings from Van Gogh, Manet, Renoir, O'Keeffe, Monet, Dali or Nolde.

Use a tablet or print out pictures in front. Review the painting and discuss differences with the children. Ask, what do you feel when you look at the painting?

Then invite the children to go outside in the garden and use paper, paint and brushes or pens to create personal paintings of flowers they like and express their feelings. Take photos from the paintings and present them for sharing on the padlet board.

Print out the photos of the paintings from the children at home and add all paintings and photos to the flower gallery on a wall in the kindergarten.



For distance learning

Online activity: Parents and children can use a search engine for children to find examples of famous flower paintings from Van Gogh, Manet, Renoir, O'Keeffe, Monet, Dali or Nolde. Use a tablet or smartphone to look at the pictures.

Offline activity: Then parents invite the child to use paper, paint and brushes or pens to create a personal painting of flowers and express feelings.

Online activity: Children take a photo from the painting and parents put it for sharing on the padlet board.

Conclusion

Presence	Virtually
<p>Printed photos, names of the plants that are found, and the flower paintings of the children are displayed in an exhibition in the kindergarten prepared by the educator to share the project results with all parents and children.</p>	<p>To share the results of the project the link to the padlet board with photos is forwarded to the families via e-mail by the educator.</p>

A QR code with the link to the padlet board is also printed and can be used by parents to view the project results on a mobile device later.

For their personal portfolio folders, children can create pages with photos and painted images to document their learning in the project and share memories.

