

Boston Public School

Rock Painting Exploration

Making Learning Visible Through the Arts

Transforming Natural Materials Through Story and Symbol



The Children's Voices

- “ These are people. ”
- “ I turned it into a rainbow. ”
- “ These are my rock planets. ”

Making Learning Visible

Children approached natural materials as objects full of possibility. Through observation, experimentation, and symbolic representation, rocks became people, planets, rainbows, and personal stories. As children revisited their creations, they explored colour, pattern, arrangement, and meaning.

Where Might This Lead Next?

How might children continue using found objects to tell stories, represent ideas, and communicate through visual symbols?



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Pedagogical Reflection

What?

Children transformed natural rocks into imaginative painted creations using acrylic paint markers. The experience invited children to observe shape, texture, and surface before creating visual stories through colour, symbols, and character details. Natural materials became a canvas for creativity, storytelling, and personal expression.

So What?

The painted rocks became meaningful storytelling objects. One child transformed several rocks into expressive painted people, using colour and character details to tell visual stories. Another child painted a rainbow and wrote the word 'Rainbow' on the reverse side, connecting visual art and written language. Children demonstrated confidence, symbolic thinking, sensory exploration, creative problem-solving, and personal storytelling.

Now What?

Future invitations may continue through storytelling stones, collaborative installations, outdoor artmaking, nature-inspired sculpture, symbol and language exploration, and mixed-media projects. Found materials provide endless opportunities for children to communicate ideas and construct meaning through creative exploration.

The Hundred Languages

Children communicated their thinking through visual art, literacy, storytelling, symbolic representation, sensory exploration, collaboration, observation, imaginative play, and creative problem-solving.

Educator Reflection

Working with the children at Boston Public School was such a rewarding experience. Throughout the rock painting exploration, the children demonstrated creativity, curiosity, storytelling, and thoughtful observation while transforming natural materials into meaningful artistic expressions. What stood out most was how each child interpreted the same materials differently, revealing unique ideas, interests, and ways of seeing the world.

Documentation Highlights

- Children transformed natural materials into meaningful artistic creations.
- Storytelling emerged naturally through painted characters, planets, and symbolic imagery.
- Children connected visual representation with language and personal meaning.
- Observation, imagination, and creativity guided the artistic process.

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