



Valentines Day Earth-Friendly Crafts

**Valentines Day Seed Cards
Recycled Collage Valentines Cards
Heart-Shaped Bird Feeders**

Pre-teaching about repurposed materials

We want to encourage students to “reduce, reuse, recycle.” By using materials that would otherwise be thrown away, we help the Earth.

We can reduce our impact on the planet by taking materials that would end up in landfills, and using them to make new things.

In addition, by reusing materials, we are consuming less, which.

Pre-teaching about giving back to the Earth

Discuss all the things that the Earth provides us:

- Food
- Water
- Air

We have a responsibility to give back to the Earth. Ask kids how we can do that.

We do that by caring for the planet. This can include picking up garbage, planting trees, and protecting habitats.

In these crafts, we give back to the Earth through making eco-friendly cards that can be planted to grow flowers that pollinators love, through reusing material to make cards, and by providing for the birds this winter by making bird feeders.





Valentine's Day Seed Cards

Preparation

Collect old papers that your students will either shred or tear into small pieces.

Find or make screens to shape the paper.

To make them: staple an old window screen into picture frames.

Materials Needed:

- Shredded paper
- A bucket of water
- A blender
- Indigenous seeds to your area
- Old window screens or screening stapled to old photo frames
- Paint, markers, pens, etc.

Step One: Collect and Shred Paper

Collect old paper (have other classes donate their old work to your class instead of recycling it)

Either shred that paper in a paper shredder OR have students rip/cut the paper into small pieces.

Step Two: Soak and Blend the Paper

In a bucket full of water, soak the paper for at least an hour to soften it. If possible, soaking it overnight will ensure it is quite soft.

Have students tear and much the paper into smaller pieces.

Place a cup of paper at a time into a blender with water to cover. Repeat until all the paper is blended. Place back into the bucket.

Step Three: Mix in the Seeds

Mix in a variety of seeds. You can add as many or as little as you would like.

Ensure to do some research into flowers that are indigenous to your area as these will be of the most benefit to the ecosystem.

If you live in Winnipeg, some beautiful prairie wildflowers include:

- purple coneflower
- yarrow
- wild bergamot
- blue eyed grass

Step Four: Flatten the Slurry onto the Screen

Using their hands, have students grab and wring out the paper mixture in a bucket or sink to get out excess water.

Cover each screen in a thin layer of the paper mixture.

The paper will need a day or two to dry. Leave it in sunlight if available.



Valentine's Day Seed Cards

Step Five: Cut Out Shapes

Cut out paper into desired shapes. Use the paper to make eco-friendly valentines day cards!

Step Six: Decorate!

Using eco-friendly markers/paints, have students decorate their cards.

Possible prompts:

- Make a Valentines Day Card for the Earth
- Write/Draw a wish for the Earth
- Write/Draw something you love about the Earth

These cards can be planted in the spring to attract pollinators to a garden!

Recycled Collage Valentines Day Cards

Preperation

have students bring in old newspaper/magazines from home.

Collect paper from around the school that students can use as their card basis (keeping in mind that students will flue over it)

Materials Needed:

- Old magazines
- Paper/cardstock
- Glue
- Markers
- Scissors

Step One:

Have students cut out pictures from old magazines and paste them onto a card. Encourage students to overlap pictures and place them in a way that they believe looks the most interesting and beautiful.

Step Two:

Cut cards into whatever shape you would like. Write or draw a message to a loved one.





Heart-Shaped Bird Feeders

Preparation

You will need either lard or vegetable shortening to bind the bird seed together.

Do some research into what winter birds live in your area and what they like to eat. Purchase a variety of birdseeds that will attract your desired birds.

Step One: Mix Shortening and Bird Seeds

In a small bowl/cup for each student, have them mix half a cup of birdseed with a few tablespoons of shortening. Ensure the shortening is soft enough to be pliable.

Have students mix the shortening and seeds with popsicle stick or their hands.

Step Three: Thread Twine Through the Feeder

Use a small piece of twine to thread the feeder.

Go outdoors and decide on a spot to hang your feeders.

Over the next weeks, observe the feeders and keep track of any birds who may visit.

Materials Needed:

- Lard or Vegetable Shortening
- Parchment paper
- Straws/Skewers
- Twine
- Bird Seed
- Small bowl/cup for each student
- Popsicle sticks (optional)

Step Two: Shape the Bird Feeders

Give each student a small piece of parchment paper. Have them shape their birdsheed mixture into a heart and pack it densely so the shape holds.

With a skewer or straw, make a small hole to thread twine through.

Place the feeders outdoors or in a fridge to harden.

Opportunities for reflection:

Have students consider how these bird feeders may help the environment.

Why is it important to care for the Earth?

What are other ways to show the Earth love and care?

