

Magic Rubbings: A Crayon Texture Adventure

Materials Needed:

- Assorted crayons (with paper peeled off)
 - Thin paper (copy paper or newsprint works well)
 - A variety of flat, textured objects. Suggestions include:
 - Nature items: leaves, flat rocks, bark, flower petals
 - Household items: coins, keys, Lego baseplates, mesh fruit bags, textured placemats, the bottom of a shoe, sandpaper
 - Optional: A small bag or box for a "mystery texture" game
 - Optional: Masking tape to hold paper in place
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Learning Objectives:

By the end of this lesson, the student will be able to:

- Demonstrate developing fine motor skills by holding a crayon on its side and applying varied pressure to create an image.
- Identify and describe different textures through touch and the resulting artwork.
- Understand the cause-and-effect relationship between rubbing a crayon over a textured object and the image that appears.
- Express creativity by selecting objects and colors to create a unique piece of textural art.

Lesson Procedure:

1. The "Mystery Texture" Warm-Up (5 minutes)

- Place one or two textured objects (like a large leaf or a Lego plate) inside a bag without the student seeing.
- Invite the student to be a "Texture Detective." Ask them to reach into the bag (without peeking!) and describe what they feel. Use guiding questions like: "Does it feel bumpy, smooth, rough, or soft?" "Can you guess what it is?"
- Pull the object out and talk about its texture together. This builds curiosity and introduces the concept of texture in a playful way.

2. Magic Trick! Modeling the Technique (5 minutes)

- Announce that you are going to do a magic trick to capture the "secret shape" of the object.
 - Place a piece of paper over the textured object. Choose a crayon with the paper peeled off.
 - Say, "Now for the magic words! Rub, rub, rub!" As you speak, lay the crayon on its side and rub it firmly across the paper over the object.
 - Show excitement as the texture and shape "magically" appear. "Wow! Look! We captured the leaf's secret shape on our paper!"
 - Explain simply: "When we rub the crayon over the bumpy parts, the color sticks and makes a picture."
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3. The Texture Hunt & Creative Exploration (15 minutes)

- Encourage the student to be a "Texture Hunter." Go on a short walk around the room or yard to find other interesting, flat-ish objects to use.
- Let the student choose their own objects, paper, and crayon colors. This gives them ownership of the project.
- As they work, engage them with open-ended questions to encourage critical thinking:
 - "What do you predict this one will look like?"
 - "What happens if you rub softer? What about harder?"
 - "What if you use two different colors on top of each other?"
- Allow them to experiment freely. The goal is the process of discovery, not a perfect final product. Create alongside them to model exploration.

4. Creating a Texture Masterpiece (10 minutes)

- Suggest combining different rubbings onto one page to create a collage or a scene.
- You could prompt them with an idea: "Let's make a magical forest! We can use bark rubbings for the tree trunks and leaf rubbings for the treetops." Or, "Could you use the coin rubbing to make wheels for a car?"
- This step encourages them to see the textures not just as patterns, but as elements they can use to build a larger, imaginative picture.

5. Art Show & Tell Wrap-Up (5 minutes)

- Set up a mini "art gallery" by laying out all the rubbings created.
- Ask the student to be the artist and guide you through their gallery. Ask questions like:
 - "Which rubbing is your favorite? Why?"
 - "Which texture was the most surprising?"
 - "Can you show me the object that made this bumpy shape?"
- This serves as a simple, positive assessment to see what they learned and enjoyed. Celebrate their creative discoveries!

Differentiation and Inclusivity:

- **For Extra Support:** Use a small piece of masking tape to secure the paper over the object. This prevents it from wiggling, which can be frustrating for little hands. Use larger, chunkier crayons that are easier to grip. Start with high-contrast textures like Lego plates.
- **For an Extra Challenge:** Encourage the student to overlap different textures and colors to see what new patterns emerge. Challenge them to create a specific picture (a house, a person, an animal) using only textures they can find.