

# Blow Painting

## Activity Summary

Participants create a painting without paintbrushes, instead using straws and their breath to move paint around a large sheet of paper. This activity can be tricky and may require the children to practice blowing their paint a few times before creating a work of art using this technique. Also be sure to closely supervise younger children so that they do not drink the paint-water mixture.

Class time: 30 minutes

Grade Level: Preschool-5<sup>th</sup>

## Learning Objectives

- Wind is moving air
- Wind can move other objects

## Materials Needed

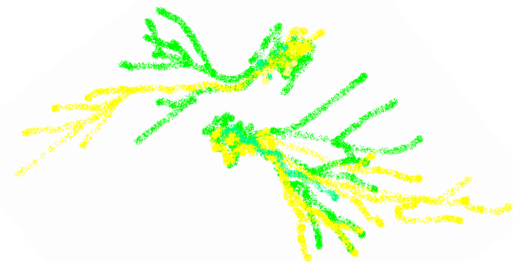
- Tempera paints
- Water
- Paint cups
- Straws
- Large sheets of paper

## Activity

1. Mix paint with water, one color in each cup. The paint should be thin, but not as runny as water.
2. Drip drops of paint onto the paper with the end of the straw – just a drop or two at a time
3. Blow through the straw to move paint around the page. See what different kinds of lines can be made by blowing gentle or hard. Try blowing from different directions – turn the paper if desired.

## Follow-up:

When the painting is dry, hold the paper up to look at the image. Rotate the paper – which edge seems like the 'top'? Why? Are there shapes that look like real objects in the painting or just patches of color? Have the class share the paintings. Does the class agree on which sides of the paintings are the 'tops'?



## **Explanation**

Since we can't see air, it can be difficult for children to understand that air exists and that it is made of 'something'. One way to overcome this challenge is to experience moving air - wind. We can see wind blowing through leaves and fluttering flags. We can feel breezes on our face. We can feel strong winds pull umbrellas out of our hands. With this activity we can see the results of the wind we create ourselves as it moves paint around the page.

## **Connections**

Blow painting is similar to the technique of air brushing as they both spray paint to produce a unique look. However, air brushing uses compressed air rather than exhaled breath. Air brushing is used by artists but also has commercial applications including in auto body work, custom clothing creation, and fingernail art.