Fingerprint Butterflies

Preschool, Kindergarten | Science | 75 minutes

by Cortney Nagler | June 25, 2015

Get your students excited about art with this cute fingerprinting activity. It utilizes color to help kids learn about the different fingers on a hand.

Learning Objectives
Students will be able to name each of the fingers on a hand.

Materials and Preparation
- Five different colors of paint or five different colored stamp pads
- Black pipe cleaners
- Glue
- Scissors
- Markers
- White paper

Key Terms:
- thumb
- index/pointer finger
- middle finger
- ring finger
- pinky finger

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Lesson

Introduction (10 minutes)

- Have your students look at their hands. Ask them if they know what fingerprints are. Tell them that their fingerprints are different from those of every other person in the entire world.
- Let them know that they are going to make some fingerprint art today. They will have some time to examine their own fingerprints, as well as compare them to those of other students in the class.

Explicit Instruction/Teacher Modeling (10 minutes)

- Teach the names of each of the fingers. Prepare a diagram of an enlarged hand with labeled fingers. Draw it on a blackboard or whiteboard, or find a picture of one and project it for the children to see.
- Keep the image up while the children work on their art activity.

Guided Practice/Interactive Modeling (30 minutes)

- Help students put one color on each of their fingers and assist them with putting their prints on paper.
- Once all students have their butterfly prints on paper, have them glue down the pipe cleaner body.

Independent Working Time (10 minutes)

- Finally, have the students use your diagram or visual representation to label each of their butterfly fingerprints.
- If your class is too young to write that many words, you can have the different fingers on labels and then have students place the labels above the correct finger.

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Extend

Differentiation

- **Enrichment**: Have advanced students make pairs of fingerprints on index cards. They can mix the cards up and try to find the pair by examining the ridges in the fingerprints.
- **Support**: You can make the labels pieces of paper and not stickers. Have the students place the paper labels above the fingerprints and then check their answers before they put permanent labels on.

Review

Assessment *(10 minutes)*

- Look at the writing or labels above each of the fingers to see if each of the students marked everything correctly.

Review and Closing *(5 minutes)*

- Have the children point to the finger on their hand as you call out each of the different fingers.
- Have them tell you what they enjoyed about the activity.