Soil Painting
WORKSHOP TITLE

DESCRIPTION
The summer is a great time to explore the outdoors and practice experiential outdoor learning, which means to learn by doing!

This activity will guide you through the process of making art using the outdoors and materials you can find in your home or community. Learn about different types of soil, their textures, and create a painting using soils from around your home or community garden!

MATERIALS
• 3 - 5 dried soil samples (with different colors and textures)
• small rock
• fine mesh strainer
• 10 paper cups
• 5 small paper plates
• 5 popsicle sticks
• 1 large paper plate
• 1 cup of water
• pencil
• tape
• spoon
• fine point black marker
• 1 sheet of watercolor or white paper
• 2 - 3 paintbrushes of any size
• liquid glue (nontoxic craft glue)

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS
1. What does experiential outdoor learning mean?
2. Why is soil health important?

RESOURCES TO EXPLORE TOGETHER

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1. Think about how big you want your soil painting to be, this will determine how much soil you should collect.

2. With the help of an adult, gather small quantities of soil using the spoon and paper cups. Collect soil samples from around your home or community garden.
   - If the soil is not dry, let it sit under the sun for a day.
   - Remove any critters, rocks, or wood material from your gathered soil.
   - Place each dried sample onto a small paper plate and crush it into smaller pieces using a small rock.
   - Repeat this process until all soil samples turn into fine powders.

3. Sift the soil by placing the strainer over a paper cup, then carefully pour the fine powdered soil into the strainer and press down using your fingers.
   - Gently shake the strainer to strain all the powdered soil.
   - Please note: make sure to keep your soil samples separate and observe the beautiful colors! Repeat this process with all soil samples.

4. Store the soils in paper cups.
   - Keep each soil sample separate.

5. Use a pencil to sketch your art design onto the paper.
   - When you are happy with your sketch, trace the lines using a marker.
   - Secure the paper to the table by taping the edges down.

6. Pour small amounts of your first soil sample inside a clean paper cup.
   - Add small amounts of glue and a few drops of water. Stir the mixture with popsicle stick until the consistency turns paint-like.
   - Repeat this process with each soil sample.
   - When done, pour a bit of each sample on a large paper plate to use as an artist's palette.

7. Use your paint brushes to apply the soil paint onto your design.
   - Experiment with the different colors and different paint brushes!
   - Reapply multiple layers of soil until you are happy with the colors.
   - When you are done, display it in your home so your friends and family can admire!