

Arts for All Nevada

OIL PASTEL: MOSSY MUSHROOM PATCH

ART SUPPLIES:

Oil Pastels (selection)

12"X18" black construction paper

Paper towels (for cleaning fingers or pastels)

White scrap paper (for cleaning pastels)

1. Let your child **peel the paper off the oil pastels** and break them into halves or thirds, as they are much easier to use this way.
2. When using oil pastels on dark, bright or black paper it helps brighten the color of your pastels if you use white pastel under all your work. In this project we will always have a white base under our color.
3. With a white pastel, start by making **3 mushroom cap shapes** across the middle of your paper. Ask your child to make an up-side-down "U", another "U" with the ends flared out like a bell and allow them to shape the third. (Photo one)

There are 3 components of the mushroom we will include in our picture:

-The cap

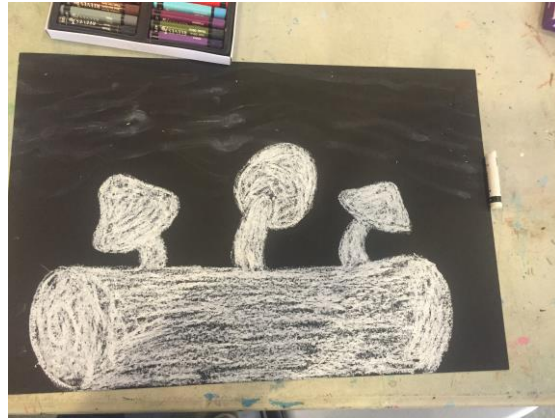
-The annulus, which is the ring or veil that comes out from under the cap --

-The stem or stipe as it is called which comes out of the annulus.

We will also need a nice, bright, fluorescent green, moss or lichen covered log for your mushrooms to sit on. Identify a light source and make that spot a white circle like the moon. You can use your fingers to smudge the moon to make it appear more solid. This will indicate to you later where the mushrooms will be light (the sun hitting the surface) and where they will be dark (shadow).



4. Fill the drawing in with the side of your white pastel. Fill in the mushrooms and the log with the white; you will be able to see your original drawing through the white. Don't leave any black where you will add color.



5. Pick 3 colors for your mushrooms. We chose blue, orange and green. You will need 3 shades of each color. For the blue mushroom we have light blue, a medium blue and a dark blue. If you have a limited palette use white to lighten your blue and maybe purple or even brown to darken it. Improvise! For orange, yellow to lighten and red to darken. For green, yellow or white to lighten, and blue to darken.
6. Begin with one mushroom at a time. Cover your entire mushroom, stem and all, with the medium shade of your chosen color using the side of your pastel. Let your child know that in nature, light will be hitting one side of your subject and the opposite side will have little to no light. The light side will always hit each mushroom from the same direction. Each mushroom will have the same light and dark side. Now take your light shade of color and wash it over a third of one side of your mushroom, do the same with the opposite side using your dark shade of color, leaving the middle third as is. If you have hard edges gently blend them in with your finger, don't forget to wipe fingers frequently with a paper towel.



7. Fill in your lichen with several colors- green, yellow even dot a little orange or red throughout. Now fill in your log with rich browns, red and orange. Use a black pastel to make knots and simulate bark and texture.
8. Now you are ready for the last 3 steps, which are the icing on the cake (or should we say mushroom)! First, use white to add spots on the caps of your mushrooms. Vary them in size. Then take a black pastel and out-line your entire drawing, following your original sketch- this will really bring out your mushrooms. Now outline the lichen, the log and all its details. Finally, add some extra foliage by using dark and highlights to again give the illusion of light. Add a snail or lady bug! Mount your picture on a bright piece of background paper.



TIPS:

- Have fun! Adapt this lesson to the age and ability of your child.
- Purchase a couple of real mushrooms to "explore" with your child.
- Clean your pastels by gently rubbing or wiping them on a clean piece of white paper or paper towel. This is especially important with the black as you outline.
- Remember to keep your hand and arm off your picture as you are working or you will smear your work and get the pastels on your arm/clothes.