

**GREENBURGH — WEEK 5**

# Week 5: Art

## Nature-Inspired Art

### Station Setup

At each table station (shared by a small group of 4–5 kids), set up the following:

- The Cardboard Base: One flat cardboard sheet at each child's seat.
- The Adhesive: Glue bottles, glue sticks, and rolls of tape shared in the center of the table.
- The Cutting Tool: Scissors for adjusting materials as needed.
- The Clean-Up Tools: Paper towels/wipes for cleaning up any spills.
- The Foraged Treasures: A shared tray or bowl in the center of the table containing natural items collected outdoors (leaves, petals, pine needles, bark, twigs, seeds, and other natural materials).
- Note: Keep all markers and newspaper at your main instructor table for later use.

### Lesson Plan

#### 1. Introduction & Hook (5 Minutes)

- Introduce Yourself: "Hi everyone! My name is Avika, and I am so excited for our activity today."
- The Question: "To start us off, think about a place outside where you feel happy, calm, or excited. Who can tell me: what is your absolute favorite spot in nature?" (Take 3–4 quick answers from the kids).
- Explain: "Those are amazing spots! Today, we are creating a 3D Self-Portrait in Your Natural Sanctuary. Nature isn't just something we look at—it's a place where we belong!"
- Our Natural Connection: When we spend time in our favorite natural spots, we connect with the plants, trees, and earth around us.
- 3D Art: Today, we are making a picture of ourselves right in the middle of our favorite outdoor space, using real leaves, bark, and twigs to bring it to life! Your sanctuary also doesn't have to be a real place, it could even be a magical forest you've imagined!"

#### 2. The Instruction Walkthrough (3 Minutes)

- Hold up your own portrait and say: "To build our artwork, we are going to draw ourselves in the middle of our cardboard, head outside to forage for natural textures, glue them down to build our 3D face and background landscape, and finish with a reflection drawing. Here's an example of my portrait and my favorite place to be outside, which is walking my dog on the trail behind my house. Let's get started!"

### 3. Creating the Portrait & Sanctuary (17 Minutes)

Walk the kids through the steps altogether:

- Step 1 (The Drawn Outline): Have kids grab a marker from the front and use it to draw a simple outline of their head, shoulders, and shirt in the center of their cardboard sheet.
- Step 2 (The Outdoor Forage): Take the kids outside for 5 minutes to gather their supplies (tell them to only pick stuff that is already on the ground.) Remind them that some items won't stick to the cardboard as well as others, so they should choose their materials carefully:
  - For their face/hair: Pine needles, small twigs, grass, or seeds.
  - For their sanctuary background: Bark (for trees/mountains), leaves and moss (for grass/canopy), or pebbles.
- Step 3 (3D Face & Hair): Back at the table, kids glue their nature finds onto their drawn face (e.g., gluing pine needles or grass for hair, a curved twig for a smile, acorn caps for eyes).
- Step 4 (The Sanctuary Background): Kids glue their remaining leaves, bark, and grass onto the empty cardboard space around their portrait to build their favorite outdoor setting.

### 4. Reflection & Future Steps (10 Minutes)

- The Reflection Question: "I want you to share the portrait that you've created and why it is special to you. Optionally, you can also share how your portrait describes the way that nature is important to you."
- Future Steps & Display: "When you take your portrait home, hang it on your bedroom wall or door. Whenever you look at it, remember how your natural sanctuary makes you feel, and try to spend a little time outside in nature every week! Even though everyone's portrait looks different, they all tell the same story: each of us has our own special connection to nature."

### 5. Clean-Up (2 Minutes)

- Collect markers and glue bottles.
- Have the kids sweep stray leaves and twigs into the central shared trays.
- Move the finished artwork aside to dry so the workspace is clean.