Rock Art

This project starts with a walk or hike outdoors to collect your rocks and sticks. Rock art is easy and fun and the possibilities are endless! We made a potted cactus plant and a tic tac toe game.

Materials:

Rocks  
Sticks  
Craft paint  
Paint brushes  
Newspaper or recycled paper  

Plant pot or container  
Soil or sand.  
Tissue paper (optional)  
Glue or tape

How to:

1. Gather your materials and select a work space. Use newspaper or some sort of table covering for your workspace. Ask an adult for assistance if you need some help.

2. Collect your rocks. You’ll also need some sticks for project 2, the tic tac toe game. Rocks don’t need to be large but select some different shapes and sizes. Once you have selected your rocks take them home and clean them with some soap and water (and your hands too). Pat dry.

3. Once rocks are clean and dry you can begin to paint. We used green paint but also added some black paint to the green for a darker green color and added white to the green paint for a lighter green color. Paint one side at a time and let dry.

4. Once your rocks have dried you can paint the cactus spines (needles). Use a thinner paintbrush and create your own design for the needles. We chose little dash lines, “x” and dots. Let dry.

5. Choose your pot or container. Take newspaper or recycled paper and fill your container. Pack the paper tightly. Take each rock and press it into the paper so that it will hold your rock. Add some soil or sand to the top to cover the paper.

6. If you would like to add a cactus flower use some tissue paper or color craft paper to create a flower. Glue or tape the flower to one or all of the rocks. We crumpled some tissue paper and glued it to the largest rock. Enjoy! You never have to water this cactus!
Tic Tac Toe

You will need ten small rocks. Clean, let dry and paint. We chose lady bugs and bumble bees for our game pieces. Paint five of each design for your game pieces. Use sticks for your game board.

1. The game is played on a grid that’s 3 squares by 3 squares.

2. You are bumble bee, your friend is a ladybug. Players take turns putting their rocks in empty squares.

3. The first player to get 3 of their rocks in a row (up, down, across, or diagonally) is the winner.

4. When all 9 squares are full, the game is over.

Fun Facts

- Geology is an earth science concerned with the solid Earth, the rocks of which it is composed, and the processes by which they change over time.

- The spines (thorns, stickers, needles) of a cactus are highly modified versions of plant leaves, there are very few cacti species with true plant leaves.

- Cactus is the singular word for the plant, cacti or cactuses are the plural forms.

- The ladybug is actually a beetle. Their bright color protects them from the predators but they can also play dead to protect themselves.

- Honey bees are super-important pollinators for flowers, fruits and vegetables. This means that they help other plants grow.