

Scrimshaw Crayon Art

Scrimshaw is the technique of carving designs on the surface of bone, ivory, or baleen. Create scrimshaw-inspired art by etching designs on paper!

Materials Needed:

White paper, crayons, toothpick or paperclip.

Caution Toothpicks and paper clips can be choking hazards. Closely supervise children during this activity.

Instructions:

Step 1: Cut a piece of white paper in half.

Step 2: Prepare your paper:

For Black-and-White Art: Color the paper with black crayon. Fill in all the white spaces, so that as little white as possible shows through the black.

For Rainbow Art: Cover a sheet of paper with different colored crayons. Use one color, or use several and make a design. Then completely cover the paper with black crayon, so that no colors show through.

Step 3: Make a design. Use a toothpick or paperclip to etch a design into the black crayon. Experiment with different patterns. If you colored the paper with rainbow crayons first, the colors will show through as you scrape the black away.

Hint: For young children, prepare the paper in advance. Older children may enjoy coloring the paper before making their designs.

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