

Art week 16

Jungle at home or in the yard

As you are waiting for summer, let's play jungle! First, we will build our own small jungle either outside on the yard or inside your home. Then we will make a picture of the jungle.

The jungle at home can be made out of plants and small toy animals. Investigate the potted plants or while building outside, take a look at the plants in the yard. Are the leaves round in shape, elongated and sharp or do they have many arms like a maple leaf? How many different shades of green can you find amongst the plants? Do the leaves have stripes, streaks or spots? Select a few different plants for your jungle and place the animals and other hidden jungle creatures at their base.

In the yard, look for a suitable place, where there are different green plants. Winter has not, luckily, withered up all the plants, and the new Spring plants have started to appear! Place the animals in the jungle, and take a look at the scenario from as close to the ground as possible. Imagine that you are a small animal, and that you see the plants as tall trees that tower above your head.

Once the jungle has been built, start making a sketch of it. First, draw the outlines of the plants and animals with oil pastels. Don't use black! The black will be added to the picture last if it is needed, because it easily covers up the lighter colours. You can combine colours by colouring on top on one colour with another so as to get new shades. Try mixing different greens! What kind of green do you get when you add a little bit or red to it? Or glue? Or white? Depict the jungle from the point of view of the small animal: Look at your model from the ground level or right at the level of the soil in the pots. Then the plants and the animals look larger.

ART
7-9years

A jungle in a flowerpot



A jungle in the yard





Henri Rousseau (1844 - 1910) : Monkeys in the Jungle (cc)

Look at the picture carefully: How many monkeys can you find? What other animal can you see in the picture? Note that you can only see a small amount of sky, since the lush jungle reaches almost all the way up the top edge of the picture.

What you need

Paper, oil pastels or other crayons / colouring pencils.

Goal

In this activity, you practice observational skills when you look at the plants, build your jungle and draw it. You practice drawing from different perspectives. You learn to mix different shades of colour.

Information

The French artist Henri Rousseau (1844 - 1910) was a painter who loved the jungle. He had never been in a real jungle, but imagined what it would look like. He visited the botanical gardens to draw the plants and to the zoo to draw tigers and lions.

Rousseau also used pictures from books, as well as post cards to help him plan his pictures of the jungle. In addition to using live models, he also used his imagination. He drew many plants and animals that didn't really exist.

Henri Rousseau was a self-taught artist. He had not studied in any art school, but rather he was a custom's official. [This internet search](#) will yield pictures of his works.

