

WEEKDAY WONDERS



Content developed by the
Tennessee Aquarium
Education Department



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Wild World of Art: Day 3

Art is just as important as science to help us understand our world. This week in Weekday Wonders, your young scientist will explore the wild world of art through nature! Your scientist will experiment with using different materials from nature including rocks, dirt, water, sticks, and leaves to create amazing artworks.

These curated activities are listed in a suggested sequence but may be done in the order that works best for you and your young scientists. Learn more about this series in the [Introduction to Weekday Wonders](#).



Question of the Day

What kind of art can you make with water?



Daily Nature Journal

Ask your young scientists to spend some time outside completing their daily nature journal. Use the [Guide to Nature Journaling](#) to support them in nature journaling each day.



Disappearing Outline

Gather a large paintbrush or sponge and a bowl of water for your young scientist. Have your scientist find a place outside with light colored concrete, such as a sidewalk, carport, or driveway.

Ask your scientist to collect items such as plants, rocks, or toys and use the paintbrush or sponge to paint an outline of their sculpture with water on the concrete. When the outline is finished, have your scientist remove the items from inside the painting. Your scientist might need to work quickly if it's a hot and sunny day!

Ask your scientist if the outline resembles the original items. Tell him or her to make observations about what happens over time.

Allow your scientist to get creative with their water painting. Some ideas might be to

- paint the outline of a person's body

- arrange items and splash water around them to see how much water your scientist needs to be able to tell what an item is based on the clear spots
- create a piece of artwork by arranging items in a specific way and then painting around them
- try to create a big piece of water art by painting a picture and trying to complete it before the first part evaporates



Water Art

Gather a dropper or paintbrush, a cup with water, and a smooth surface, such as a tray, plate, or tile.

Have your young scientist create water art by making dots of water on the surface. Your scientist can make patterns or a design. Challenge your scientist to use different sizes of dots of water in the design. To see an example of water art, you can show your scientist this [short time lapse video](#).

Talk with your scientist to help him or her understand that surface tension holds the water together in the dots. You can add pepper to the top of the dots to get a clearer view of surface tension. See if your scientist can determine how big a dot of water can be before it is too much for the surface tension to hold it together.



Ice Sculptures

Have your scientist find several small freezer-safe containers, along with several sticks. Fill one container with water. Your scientist can decorate their sculpture by using colored water (with food coloring) and/or adding small objects to the container such as flowers, pebbles, or small toys.

When your scientist has added all the decorations they want, prop one of the sticks in the container so that one half is under water and the other half sticks up out of the container. Place the container in the freezer until frozen through.

When the first container is frozen, remove the first section of the ice sculpture from the container. You may need to run warm water over the container to allow it to release it.

Have your young scientist prep a second container with water and decorations. When the second part of the sculpture is decorated, place the first part of the sculpture stick side down into the second container. If your scientist wants to add other pieces to their sculpture, add more sticks to the container (half in the container and half out). You may need to place this in a larger container to prop the first sculpture up. Place the second container with the first sculpture back into the freezer. When it is frozen, the two sections of the ice sculpture will be connected by the stick.

Continue filling containers and placing sticks until your scientist feels the sculpture is complete. Then, take the sculpture outside, and enjoy it until the sun melts it! Ask your scientist how long s/he think it will take for the entire sculpture to melt in the sun. More impatient scientists may enjoy experimenting with ways to speed the melting along! (Suggestions include warm water, adding salt, and even a hair dryer!)



Art About Water

Your young scientist has had a chance to make art with water. Now it is time to have him or her make some art *about* water. Have your scientist use watercolors, construction paper, cutouts from magazines, crayons, or any other kind of medium to create a piece of art work that focuses on water. S/he might want to try making waves or ripples of water or to create a scene from underneath the water.