Name: _____ Date: _____

Floating Paint and Marbled Paper

Circle group

Marbling is a way to make paper that looks like swirled stone. Artists have done it for hundreds of years. It starts with a shallow tray of water.

The water is thick and slippery. The paint stays on top. The artist drops tiny bits of paint on the water. The paint does not sink. It floats in little rings and spreads out.

Then the artist drags a stick or a comb through the paint. The colors stretch into waves and curls. No two patterns are the same.

Last, the artist lays a sheet of paper on the water. The paint sticks to it. The pattern comes up with the paper. When it dries, it can cover a book or make a card.

Questions

1. What does marbled paper look like?

_____

_____

2. What goes in the tray?

_____

_____

3. What happens when paint is dropped on the water?

_____

_____

4. How does the artist make waves and curls?

_____

_____

5. Why is every sheet different?

_____

_____

6. What must happen before the paper is used?

_____

_____

Words to know

marbling: making swirled patterns that look like stone
shallow: not deep
pattern: a design made of lines, shapes or colors

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Floating Paint and Marbled Paper

Triangle group

Marbling is a way to make paper that looks like swirled stone. Artists have marbled paper for hundreds of years. It begins with a shallow tray of water.

The water is made thick and slippery, so paint stays on top of it. The artist drops tiny bits of paint onto the surface. The paint does not sink. It floats in little rings and spreads out.

Next, the artist drags a stick or a comb through the paint. The colors stretch into waves, curls and feathery lines. No two patterns are ever the same.

Last, a sheet of paper is laid gently on the water. The paint sticks to the paper. When the paper is lifted, the pattern comes up with it. After the sheet dries, it can be used to cover a book or make a card.

Questions

1. What does marbled paper look like?

_____

_____

2. What does the artist put in the tray?

_____

_____

3. What happens when paint is dropped onto the water?

_____

_____

4. How does the artist make waves and curls in the colors?

_____

_____

5. Why is every marbled sheet different from the others?

_____

_____

6. What is the last step before the paper is used?

_____

_____

Words to know

marbling: making swirled patterns that look like stone
shallow: not deep
surface: the top layer of something
feathery: thin and soft, like a feather
pattern: a design made of lines, shapes or colors

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Floating Paint and Marbled Paper

Square group

Marbling is a technique for producing paper that resembles swirled stone, and artists have practiced it for hundreds of years. The process begins with a shallow tray filled with water.

The water is made thick and slippery so that paint remains on its surface. The artist dabs tiny drops of paint onto the water. Instead of sinking, the paint floats in small rings and gradually spreads outward.

Next, the artist draws a stick or a comb through the floating paint. The colors stretch into waves, curls and feathery lines, and no two patterns ever turn out exactly alike.

Finally, a sheet of paper is laid carefully on top of the water, and the paint clings to it. When the paper is lifted, the pattern rises with it. Once the sheet has dried, it can be used to cover a book or to create a card.

Questions

1. What does marbled paper resemble?

_____

_____

2. What is placed in the shallow tray?

_____

_____

3. What does the paint do when it touches the water?

_____

_____

4. How does the artist create waves, curls and feathery lines?

_____

_____

5. Why does no marbled sheet turn out exactly like another?

_____

_____

6. What must happen to the sheet before it can be used?

_____

_____

Words to know

marbling: making swirled patterns that look like stone
shallow: not deep
surface: the top layer of something
feathery: thin and soft, like a feather
pattern: a design made of lines, shapes or colors

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

For the teacher: Floating Paint and Marbled Paper

Each student sheet carries a shape, not a level. The same topic and facts, written three ways.

Circle: Floating Paint and Marbled Paper

Easier · 122 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1.6

1. Swirled stone.
2. Thick, slippery water.
3. It floats and spreads in little rings.
4. By dragging a stick or a comb through the paint.
5. The swirls are made by hand, so no two match.
6. It has to dry.

Triangle: Floating Paint and Marbled Paper

This passage · 137 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.8

1. Swirled stone.
2. Thick, slippery water.
3. It floats and spreads out in little rings.
4. By dragging a stick or a comb through the paint.
5. The swirls are made by hand, so no two patterns match.
6. The sheet has to dry.

Square: Floating Paint and Marbled Paper

Harder · 145 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 6.3

1. Swirled stone.
2. Thick, slippery water.
3. It floats in small rings and spreads outward.
4. By drawing a stick or a comb through the floating paint.
5. The swirls are shaped by hand, so each pattern is different.
6. It has to dry.