

Create a Sun Print

Make your own artwork using sunlight!

Materials:

Sun print paper*, objects to make prints with (leaves, shells, feathers, small toys, shapes cut out of cardstock, etc.), index card or cardboard square, shallow container with water, paper towels. You will also need a sunny day and access to outside. Optional: clear picture frame or piece of plexiglass.

Instructions

Step 1: Gather objects to make your artwork. Small and flat items work best.

Step 2: Arrange your objects on the index card or cardboard square. Once you have decided on a design, transfer your objects to the sun print paper (blue side up). Hint: Work in a shaded area, as direct sunlight will expose the paper. Optional: Place a clear picture frame or piece of plexiglass over your art. This will help keep the objects from moving. If your objects are heavy enough to stay in place by themselves, you can skip this step.

Step 4 Take your art outside. Leave it in bright sun for five to ten minutes, until most of the color disappears from the paper. The sunnier it is, the less time it will take. If it is partly cloudy, leave the paper outside for longer.

Step 5: Rinse your paper in the pan of water for one minute, until it turns dark blue. Lay the paper flat on paper towels to dry, and admire your artwork!

How Do Sun Prints Work?