

“SEASONAL” SCENT ART



The holidays bring so many wonderful scents with them, from hot apple cider and fresh baked cookies to candy canes and peppermint bark. Making scented paints is a fun way to enjoy the festive fragrances of the season while creating multi-sensory art! “Seasonal” Scent paints are easy for kids to make themselves, and a great way to learn about where so many of our lovely holiday “seasonings” come from!

You can use any spices and colors you like! We simply recommend these four to inspire holiday cheer!

MATERIALS

Ground Cinnamon
Ground Cloves
Peppermint Extract
Vanilla Extract
Red Tempera Paint
Brown Tempera Paint
Green Tempera Paint
White Tempera Paint
Paint Cups
Paint Brushes
Paper
Water Cups



METHOD

- 1) Pour a dollop of each paint color into its own cup. *(Fun Tip: Empty egg cartons can be used as your paint palette instead of cups!)*
- 2) Sprinkle a teaspoon of cinnamon into the red, a teaspoon of cloves into the brown, a teaspoon of peppermint extract into the green, and a teaspoon of vanilla into the white; Stir each paint/spice combination together with its own spoon or paint brush.
- 3) Continue to sniff each paint until you like the strength of the scent, and the room is filled with delightful holiday fragrances.
- 4) Discuss where the seasonings come from- Each comes from the earth! [Cinnamon](#) comes from the bark of trees, [peppermint](#) is a leafy herb plant, [vanilla](#) comes from the seed pod of an orchid plant, and [cloves](#) are the rich, brown, dried unopened flower buds of an evergreen tree! *(Learn more about each seasoning by clicking on their name!)*
- 5) Begin painting your masterpieces!



**Special thanks to learnwithplayathome.com and creativefamilyfun.net for use of their photos!*

OPPORTUNITIES FOR EXPANDED LEARNING & CREATIVITY

Making “Seasonal” Scent Art provides children with numerous different educational and creative avenues to explore. Consider trying these variations for even more sensory fun!



NATURAL PIGMENTS- AN ANCIENT TRADITION!

By making “Seasonal” Scent Art, you are embracing a part of human history! People have been making natural pigments for as long as they have been making art. Before they could go to the store and buy things like paints and markers, they made their own using materials from the earth! Natural pigments served many artistic purposes for ancient cultures around the world- People created early cave paintings with earthen pigments made from organic things like plants, rocks and minerals, and even animal products and applied them by brushing, smearing, stroking, and dabbing them against surfaces. Use this time to discuss the [history of natural pigments](#) with children, and to learn about the [different countries these spices and seasonings come from](#), and how they are commonly used- They aren’t just for cooking!

- ❖ Additional winter holiday seasonings you can use include [nutmeg](#), [ginger](#), [anise](#), and [orange extract](#). (*Learn more about each seasoning by clicking on their name!*)
- ❖ Collect things like pinecones, cinnamon sticks, anise stars, pine tree needles/branches, apple slices, and orange peels and use them to create different strokes, stamps, and textured images on your paintings while adding even more festive scents to the experience.
- ❖ Add some sugar to the mix! [Sugar](#) comes from the earth too. When your paintings are dry, drizzle a little glue over them, then sprinkle sugar over the glue, and lift the paper to dust off the excess sugar while the rest sticks to the glue- This is a great way to create a frosted look on paintings of trees or snowscapes!
- ❖ Add texture with sprinkled dry spices! Follow the same glue and sprinkle method above, but use your spices instead of sugar for a textured and fragrant creation! If you painted branches, for example, trace over them with glue, then sprinkle cinnamon, nutmeg, or cloves over the glue for a 3D look! If you painted sand, leaves, etc., do the same but with ginger!

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