Art Exploration

CLOTHESPIN PAINTING

Make your own paintbrushes from clothespins and pom-poms, and complete two fall pictures!

Materials Provided:
Clothespin
Pom-poms
Tree Painting Template
Pumpkin Painting Template

Materials Needed:
Assorted paints or watercolors
Cotton balls
1. With this project, you will create your own paintbrushes. Assemble the paints you’d like to use, then make your paintbrush by opening one clothespin and squishing a pom-pom inside.

2. To paint your tree, dip your paintbrush into one of your paint colors and begin dabbing it along the branches of the tree, creating circular bursts of color. You can dab the paintbrush softly to make lighter colors, and press it down for more intense colors.

3. Change colors often, adding red, yellow, orange, purple and even green leaves to your tree. If your pom-pom is holding too much color, try switching or a new one or using a cotton ball instead.

4. Try making an apple tree! Use greens for the leaves, then add bright red circles to the branches. Try making all kinds of different trees. Add some clouds and birds to your sky! When you’re finished, let your projects dry completely.

You can also use your paintbrush to make a pumpkin patch! Switch to a new pom-pom or cotton ball after finishing your tree, and take out your pumpkin patch template.

Along the rows, stamp round pumpkins using your paintbrush. You can also add vines and other vegetables, like squash or corn, or even sunflowers. After your painting is dry, add some faces to your pumpkins to create a field of glowing jack o' lanterns!

**Other Ideas**

Paint a pumpkin! Make a scary face, a silly face, or paint an autumn creature on your pumpkin. Then, have a pumpkin painting contest with friends and family! Award prizes for best use of color, most creative picture, scariest face, and more.

This project was provided by [www.projectswithkids.com](http://www.projectswithkids.com). Visit their website for more craft ideas!