



MAKE AN OCOTILLO MURAL

Target age group: K-3

You will need:

- a long piece of mural/chart paper
- green and red tissue paper
- glue sticks
- black and/or brown paints to make the stems

How to prepare:

I recommend that you paint all the stems ahead of time and make sure they are dry before the kids get near the chart paper. Acrylic paints works really well. Use a medium sized brush with round tip if possible.

Also, read some information about the ocotillo or search for them on youtube so you can discuss the ocotillo's survival strategies. The ocotillo drops its leaves while it is dry and quickly grows new ones right after a heavy rain storm. It can even drop stems if necessary. Another name for the ocotillo is the coach whip plant because the stems can be up to 15 feet long and look like the whips that stagecoach drivers used.

What to do:

Cut the green and red tissue paper into small (2 inches by 2 inches?) pieces. Provide the students with glue sticks. Tell them to put a dot of glue along the side of a stem, then scrunch a piece of green tissue paper and put it on the glue dot. Scrunched red tissues go on the tops of the stems.

