



ARTS PLUS

PAL at Home

Preschool Art Lab activities for families to make together

“Coffee Filter Tie Dye”

This activity is appropriate for ages 3 and up

Time from start to finish = 15-30

You will need the following materials:

- Washable markers or watercolor
- Coffee filter
- Spray bottle with water

Brief project description: Coffee filters are made from paper that is super absorbent. They will hold the stain of whatever wet material they touch, including ink from markers and paint. Colors saturate and mix beautifully on this non-traditional painting surface.



Steps

- **#1:** Fold your coffee filter in half three times to create a small wedge or triangle.
- **#2:** Color your folded coffee filter triangle using a variety of markers. You can leave some empty spaces, but we recommend coloring in most of the white space. If you are using watercolors, make sure you paint a relatively thick layer of paint on the triangle so that it will saturate through.
- **#3:** Keeping your coffee filter in its folded triangle shape, use your spray bottle to spray water all over the surface covered with marker or watercolor.
- **#4:** Now set your coffee filter aside to dry. Do not unfold coffee filter while it's drying. The magic of color blending happens as the ink from the markers or watercolor seeps through and saturates into the other layers of the folded filter. Once dry (this should take about 30 minutes) unfold your coffee filter and reveal your color mixing magic.
- **#5:** It is fun to try this activity with many different coffee filters going at once. Think of all the different color combinations you can make!
- **#6:** Once they are all dry you can tape your tie dyed coffee filters to a sunny window, and the effect will be almost like looking through stained glass.

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