# NEWSPAPER EARTH MURAL

## A Collaborative Recycled Art Project That Celebrates Our Planet



Students transform old newspapers into a colorful Earth-themed mural by tearing, layering, and gluing recycled paper to create oceans, continents, clouds, and natural landscapes. This project teaches teamwork and shows that everyday materials can be reused in creative ways!



## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Learn the importance of recycling and environmental stewardship.
- Practice tearing, arranging, and gluing paper to improve fine motor skills.
- Develop teamwork by contributing to one large collaborative artwork.
- Explore basic geography by identifying continents and oceans.
- Express creativity using recycled materials.

## MATERIALS NEEDED



- Old newspapers
- Construction paper (blue, green, white, brown, and yellow)
- Child-safe scissors
- Glue sticks or white school glue
- Large bulletin board paper or poster board
- Markers or crayons
- Decorative bulletin board borders (optional)
- Earth template (optional for younger students)

## STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS

### 1 PREPARE THE BACKGROUND

Cover a bulletin board or poster board with blue paper to represent sky or ocean. Decide where the Earth will be placed and lightly sketch a large circle as a guide. Teachers may prepare the outline ahead of time.



### 2 TEAR THE NEWSPAPER

Tear old newspapers into different-sized pieces. Tearing creates interesting textures and helps strengthen hand muscles. Students can organize pieces into small piles.



### 3 BUILD THE EARTH

Cover the large circle with torn newspaper pieces using glue. Add green paper for continents, blue for oceans, and white for clouds or polar ice caps. The goal is to represent our planet creatively, not perfectly!



### 4 ADD DETAILS

Decorate the mural with additional recycled paper pieces to create:



- Trees
- Mountains
- Flowers
- Birds
- Butterflies
- The sun
- Clouds
- Hearts
- Recycling symbols

Encourage students to contribute so everyone becomes part of the final artwork!

### 5 CREATE AN EARTH DAY DISPLAY

Mount the completed Earth in the center and surround it with student artwork or recycled craft projects.

Optional additions include:

- Paper flowers
- Recycled butterflies
- Student handprints
- Leaves
- Positive environmental illustrations

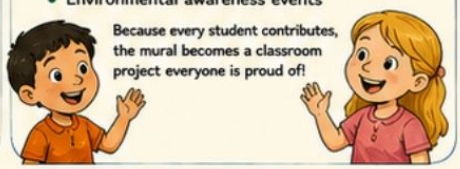


The display becomes a colorful reminder of caring for our planet!

### 6 SHOWCASE THE MURAL

Display the finished mural in:

- Classroom bulletin boards
- School hallways
- Library displays
- Earth Day celebrations
- STEM fairs
- School entrances
- Environmental awareness events



Because every student contributes, the mural becomes a classroom project everyone is proud of!

## CLASSROOM DISCUSSION

After completing the mural, ask students questions such as:



- Why is recycling important?
- What can we recycle at school and at home?
- How does reducing waste help the Earth?
- What are simple ways we can protect our environment every day?
- Why is it important to work together to care for our planet?

## EXTENSION IDEAS

Assign each student an environmental topic to illustrate, such as recycling, conserving water, planting trees, reducing litter, or protecting wildlife. Students can create recycled-paper fact cards to display around the mural or research ways families can help the environment at home. Continue adding seasonal recycled artwork throughout the year to create a growing display that celebrates sustainability and teamwork!



## HELPFUL SUPPLIES




### TEACHER TIP

Create one large collaborative mural where every student contributes a section. This encourages teamwork, creates a stunning classroom display, and reinforces the message that protecting our planet is something we all do together. The finished mural is a year-round reminder that even small actions—like recycling a newspaper—can make a positive difference!



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