Norton Simon Museum

Family Art Project: My Art Aquarium

Paul Klee had an aquarium in his home and was mesmerized by the three-dimensional movement of his fish. Through the 1920s, it became a subject of several paintings such as *Aquarium Green-Red* (1921). Using cellophane, string, collage paper and paper plates, watch some fish move in an aquarium of your own design.

Galka Scheyer Collection

Paul Klee (Swiss, 1879–1940), *Aquarium Green-Red*, 1921, Watercolor and ink on laid papers, mounted on Japanese laid paper mounted on thin cardboard, Norton Simon Museum, The Blue Four
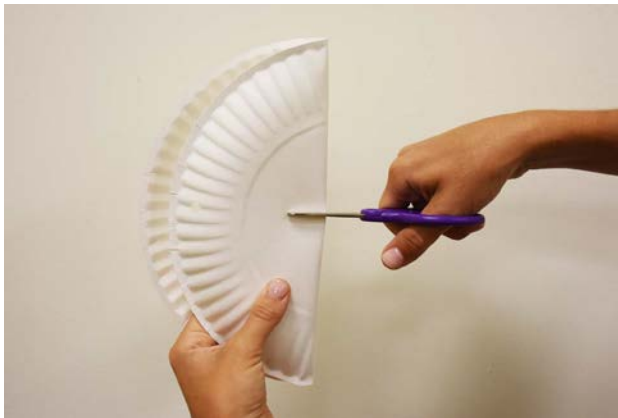

Materials:

- Two paper plates
- Cellophane
- Tissue paper
- Decorative paper
- Shredded paper
- String

- Glue
- Scissors
- Tape
- Bowl
- Googley eyes
- Hole puncher

Steps:

Step 1: Stack two paper plates on top of each other and hole punch a hole near the rim of the plate. The hole will be used to hang your aquarium.

Step 2: Take one of the plates and fold it lightly in half. Use the scissors to cut the inner circular area of the plate to create a plate "frame."
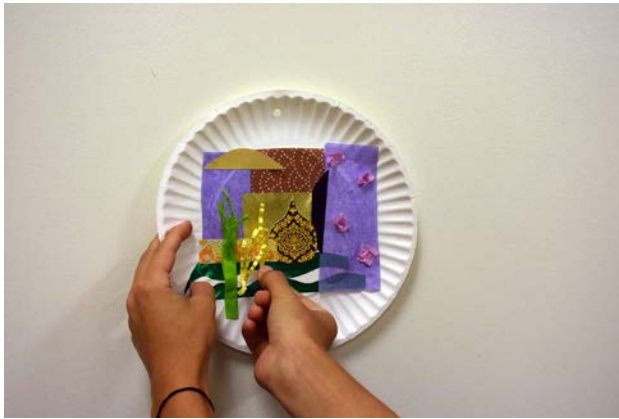

Step 3: Using a bowl slightly larger in diameter than the circular opening you made, trace a circle on the cellophane and cut it out. Tape the cellophane inside the "frame" plate to create a window.

Step 4: Collage an underwater scene on the other plate using glue and decorative paper. Crumple pieces of tissue paper to create sea flowers. Use different colors of shredded paper for underwater grass. You can also cut, twist, and roll small slices of tissue paper to create three-dimensional seaweed!

Step 5: Cut out fish from heavyweight paper. Glue googly eyes onto your fish and punch a hole at the top of the fish. Take some string and tie it through the hole and tape the string to the top of the "frame" plate to suspend your fish.

Step 6: Add some glue to the edges of the two plates to attach them together. Tie some string through both holes on top to hang an enclosed aquarium with a window for you to look through and admire the aquatic landscape you created!