



Sun Art

The Sun's light is bright and hot, illuminating and warming our planet during the daytime. Enjoy three quick art projects that demonstrate the power of the Sun.

Please note: This project involves leaving materials outside for multiple hours. Activities can also be broken up into three mini projects if desired.

Materials

2 pieces of dark-colored paper
Sunscreen
Coins
Tape or heavy object
Water in a cup (or other container)
Paintbrush (optional)

Directions

1. Find a nice sunny spot outside, away from any shadows, on concrete or a patio.
2. Let's start by making **Sun prints!**
 - a. Place a piece of paper in the sunny spot.
 - b. Place coins on top of the paper in any design.
 - c. Tape down the edges or use something heavier so the paper doesn't blow away.
 - d. Leave the paper sitting in the Sun for at least 4 hours, the longer the better!
3. Now an art experiment to see how sunscreen protects our skin.



- a. Take the second piece of paper, fold it in half, and then open it again.
- b. On one side of the paper, use a very small amount of sunscreen to draw a large picture of anything you'd like. (You can even cover the palm of your hand in sunscreen and then press it on the paper, making a handprint).
- c. Leave the other side of the paper blank.
- d. Tape down the edges or use something heavier so the paper doesn't blow away.
- e. Leave the paper sitting in the Sun for 2–4 hours.

4. While you wait, let's see what else the Sun can do. Let's **water paint!**

- a. Find a safe, dry, sunny section of sidewalk, patio, concrete, fence, or bench, or experiment on different surfaces.
- b. Dip the paintbrush in water and start "painting" the surface. Draw for 1 minute, then leave your art alone for 2 minutes. How long do you think it will take for the water to dry?
- c. What's happening? The heat from the Sun is causing the water to evaporate, or dry. Try water-painting in the shade. Does it last longer? Repeat as many times as you'd like.



5. Time to check on our **sunscreen art!**

- a. After 2-4 hours, check on your sunscreen art paper. What do you notice? The paper should be faded everywhere except where you drew with sunscreen!
- b. Just like sunlight faded the paper, it can hurt our skin as well. Using sunscreen is one way to help protect our skin.



6. How are our **Sun prints** doing?

- a. After 4-8 hours, check on the Sun prints. Carefully touch the coins—are they warm or cold after sitting in the sunlight?
- b. Remove the coins and look at the paper. What do you notice? Just like sunscreen art, the paper should be faded everywhere except where the Sun's light was blocked by the coins!

