

CRAFT

MARBLED MUGS

AGES

Teens/tweens

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Personalize a mug with a marbled ocean or coastline scene! Participants dip their mugs into a mixture of water and nail polish to get the marbled effect. Provide a variety of nail polish colors to allow for more variation. Each mug is unique, and they are quick and easy to make. You can also create take-and-make bags that each include a mug and marbling instructions for doing it at home. Suggested runtime: 45 min.



Image source: Sally Mason of LeRoy Collins Leon County Public Library, Tallahassee, FL

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

Materials:

- White or black ceramic mugs, or reusable water bottles
- Nail polish (but NOT chunky glitter nail polish because it clumps)
- Deep disposable bowls or aluminum pans
- Plastic grocery bags
- Paper towels
- Warm water
- Table cloths for tables
- Mod Podge to make the mugs dishwasher safe
- Paintbrushes
- Optional: Toothpicks, nail polish remover, cotton balls, gloves, ocean animal silhouettes

For an in-person program, set up tables and chairs, and set out supplies. For take-and-make bags, include instructions, a mug, food coloring, and nail polish.

TIPS:

Nail polish residue is very hard to get off of bowls, so use large craft/paint bowls or disposable bowls.

Check your local Goodwill or Dollar Store for white ceramic mugs.

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To make:

- The hotter the water, the better. Keep a kettle or coffee pot brewing, and add one hot pot to each gallon of cool water. This allows the water to be warm enough for the nail polish to spread, but cool enough to touch.
- After the mugs have been dipped and dried, coat with Mod Podge.
- See Resources for variations.

UNIQUE SPACE AND/OR PERSONNEL NEEDS

One extra staff member or volunteer for in-person programs.

RESOURCES

Web

Marbled mugs tutorial from Sweetest Occasion: <https://bit.ly/3fOaNu4>

Simple marbled mugs from What's Up Moms (video):
<https://bit.ly/3yTw6Do>

Marbled mugs tutorial from DIY Candy: <https://bit.ly/3wAK3nC>

Books

Fiction

Secret Sisters of the Salty Sea (2019) by Lynne Rae Perkins

The Vanishing Deep (2020) by Astrid Scholt (YA)

Starfish (2017) by Akemi Dawn Bowman (YA)

Draw the Line (2017) by Laurent Linn (YA)

Non-fiction

This is What I Know About Art (2020) by Kimberley Drew and Ashley Lukashevsky (YA)

Techniques for Painting Seascapes (2010) by Borlase Smart (YA/adult)