

1 2 3 – ABC Come Paint With Me!



Who needs a brush?



Here's an alphabetical list (yes there's a "brush" for each letter) of 115 unique "paintbrushes" your students/children are sure to have a ball experimenting with, as they create who knows what!

Enjoy!



1. Acorns
2. Aluminum foil (Loosely scrunched up in small, medium and large balls. Children can roll or stamp. Because it's moldable, you can shape it! Oh the possibilities.)
3. Apples (Slice in half and stamp away!)
4. Balloons (Blow up small water balloons and dab & roll. Let the colors mix!)
5. Balls (Especially bumpy ones! Woven Hacky Sacks are great too.)
6. Bath Puffs
7. Beads (Paint and make bumpy snake paths.)
8. Bingo Dabbers
9. Blocks
10. Bottle Bottoms (Many soda pop and water bottles when dipped and stamped, make lovely flower prints!)

11. Boxes (Small cardboard jewelry ones of various sizes + lids are super squares and rectangles for stamping.)
12. Broom straw (They sell this at some flea markets in the fall, or you can find it at some craft/hobby stores. This is DIFFERENT than the straight broomstick "straw" you find on a regular broom. Bind small bunches to make mini-brushes. You can also do the same with a regular broom from The Dollar Store.)
13. Bubbles
14. Bubble Wrap
15. Buttons (Hot glue on a cork. All sorts of pictures need buttons! Make borders, collages, review small medium & large.)
16. Cans
17. Caps (To avoid painted fingers, when a cap is not tall, I hot glue a small wooden block or bead to the top so students can hang onto the cap, dip and press with no mess!)
18. Cardboard Pieces (Peel back the smooth surface to reveal the ribbed edge. Cut strips with a scalloped edge. Paint & press for cool borders. Cut into shapes for a fun way to review that concept. Cut into a variety of widths in 4x6 & 5x7 strips. Paint and press to make a cool frame. Insert a photo for a quick gift.)
19. Cars & toy trucks (Run their wheels in paint and vroom across paper or a map. Add die-cut paper vehicles.)
20. Celery (Lop off the end. It looks just like a rose print when you paint and stamp it!)
21. Cereal (Cheerio's & Froot Loops. Be gentle. You can also dip and tug along with a Q-tip for less messy fingers.)
22. Chalk (Dipped in paint.)
23. Clothespins (Use the rounded ones to stamp with and clip cool "stuff" to the end of the clippie kind to make stamping easier and less messy.)
24. Coffee Filters (Paint with watercolors and press. Scrunch up and stamp.)
25. Combs (Drop various colors of paint dollops on a line and have children comb through it! When it's dry they can cut into shapes.)
26. Condiment Bottles (Like you use for ketchup.)
27. Cookie Cutters
28. Corks
29. Cotton Balls
30. Dish Scrubbers

31. Dowels (Cut a variety of widths into "hold able" lengths for inexpensive "**Seurat**" dot stampers.)
<http://www.triblio.org/wm/paint/auth/seurat/>
32. Duck Tape (Ya gotta love the zillion uses for this; why not a paint stamper? So that you're not making a zillion "wraps" insert a small seed bead into each "layer" and wrap "hold able" twigs to various widths, to make cool multi-circular design stampers. Remind students to stamp gently. No smooshing!
33. Egg cartons (Cut separate pod-pieces to make stamped bodies for aliens, monsters and insects.)
34. Feathers
35. Feet
36. Fingers
37. Fishnet (A bit messy, but the results are worth it. Roll white paint on while fishnet is lying on a newspaper, lift carefully and press onto blue paper. Add seashells, fishy crackers etc.)
38. Flowers (real & artificial)
39. Fly Swatters
40. Foam
41. Food (Be creative! When you look at something, ask yourself: *"Can I paint with this and make a fun design?"*)
42. Forks (Great for dragging paint.)
43. Fruit (LOVE working with cut apples in September for my apple unit.)
44. Funnels
45. Gloves (Slap one on, paint it, press on paper and you have a unique "handprint"!
46. Glue bottles. (Save your mini empty Elmer's bottles and fill with thick tempera, or mix powdered tempera with the glue!)
47. Green Pepper (Slice in half for a perfect shamrock!)
48. Hands (Lots of different pictures you can make with a handprint. Pair up 2 students. Paint one child's hands red the others yellow. Press them next to each other on one sheet of paper, so that the right hand of one child and the left hand of the other child go on top of each other, to blend and make the new color orange!
49. Ice Cubes (Freeze paint in trays.)
50. Jars (A variety of small jars, especially ones from baby food, are easy to dip, and stamp. Try to find 3 different sizes for a small-medium-large review.)
51. Koosh Balls

52. Lace (Paint and press for lovely borders, frames and collaged designs. Crisscrossing makes unique "spider webs!")
53. Leaves (Awesome fall pictures from painted and pressed leaf prints! Encourage using all the fall colors. Go on a nature walk to collect them.)
54. Magnetic Marbles (Pull a magnet under the paper to move the marble through the paint and study science while you make cool designs.)
55. Marbles (Put a large marble in the center of a dollop of paint, that is on top of a round piece of paper, which is inserted in a pie tin. Students roll the tin back and forth to make a cool design. I did this on black construction paper with white paint and sprinkled opalescent glitter onto the wet paint, to make awesome spider webs.)
56. Markers (Don't throw those dried up "paintbrushes" away! The caps are perfect circle stampers and the regular marker part is a sponge that can be dipped and "painted" or "stamped" with; + they're easy to hold. TIP: If you don't want to use them as "brushes" collect the dried up ones, remove the caps, and place them in ¼ cup of warm water to make awesome watercolors!
57. Marshmallows (They sell foam ones.)
58. Medicine Droppers
59. Mittens (Slap one on, paint it, press and wah-lah perfect mitten prints. TIP: Don't press too hard or the fingers will show more than the mitten.)
60. Mops (Single strands or a bunch balled up.)
61. Noodles (Spaghetti is a hoot!)
62. Nylon stockings (Bunch in a ball.)
63. Onions! (If you can get past the smell the circular designs are pretty, they come apart to make rings, and the green leafy stalk ones are really something to dip and paint with.)
64. Packing Peanuts
65. Pencil erasers (For a quick and easy *(as a Sunday Afternoon)* virtually no mess dot picture, (Pointillism) dip the end of the pencil in paint and dot to your heart's content)
<http://www.weblearneng.com/pointillist>
66. Pine Cones
67. Pipe Cleaners
68. Plungers (You can get small ones, but for lots of fun, roll out bulletin board paper outside and take the plunge!)

69. Pom Poms
70. Potatoes (Cut plain or carved into a shape to stamp.)
71. Prescription bottles (Remove all labels. These are easy to hold and dip with no mess! Try to find a variety of sizes to review small medium and large and make adorable snowmen.)
72. Q-tips (Perfect for making designs around valentine hearts, adding ornaments to a tree and making noses & eyes on people, where a brush is too cumbersome for a small child to add details)
73. Rags
74. Ribbon
75. Ric Rack
76. Rocks
77. Rolling pins (small toy ones)
78. Rollers (The kind that have handles)
79. Rollers (The ones for hair, spongy and bristly)
80. Roll-on Deodorant Bottles
81. Rope (Small chunks for fatter snake-like pictures than yarn and string can make, or use all of them for a cool mixture.)
82. Rubber band balls
83. Sandpaper (Paint and press. Can cut out a variety of shapes to make a picture.)
84. Scrubbies (The nylon things for pots & pans and the softer ones for bath time.
85. Schunchies (Hair ties, swirl them loose, paint and plop, or wrap them on your hand.)
86. Seashells
87. Seed pods
88. Shoes
89. Shoelaces
90. Skewers (Fatter and longer than toothpicks. Snip points for safety. Use separate or bundle in various packs.)
91. Spatulas ("Frost" your cupcake, cake, gingerbread men and cookie drawings, with a spatula and puffy paint or paint where shaving cream and glue have been added! So realistic!)
92. Spools (If you peel off the label you'll see a wheel design perfect for snowflakes or wagon wheels.)
93. Spoons,
94. Sponges (By far my favorite "brush" for making bushes and "leaves" on trees. A quick & easy way to fill in large areas without getting

- them sopping wet with paint. Sponging dries quickly and shows various shading as well. Perfect for filling in large drawings of apples, pumpkins and Christmas trees.
95. Spray Bottles (This is especially fun in the winter. Spritz snow with watercolors, or water lightly tinted with food coloring. NO spraying each other! Food coloring doesn't always come out of clothes. Just an FYI.)
 96. Squirt Guns. (Snow much fun! See note above. Great for an outdoor summer activity too. Adult one-on-one supervision a must. Need I say more?)
 97. Socks (Slip on a hand, or stuff with paper towel or a rag and stamp away.)
 98. Stamps (I like the Styrofoam kind best. Apply paint and press.)
 99. Straws (don't blow too hard or too long or you could get a headache!)
 100. String
 101. Sugar cubes
 102. Tassels
 103. Thimbles (The rubber ones that people put over their index finger to turn pages with, make a cool design and keep fingers from getting messy; or use the real ones to stamp with.)
 104. Tooth Brushes (TIP: When "splatter" painting put the child's paper in the bottom of a big box. They lean over and "flick" away without splattering their surroundings. Toothbrushes make great blizzards, rain & sand storms, and spray on top of a wave.
 105. Toothpicks (The kind with the party "fluff" on top provides another end to "paint" with.
 106. Toys (Your mantra now is: *"Can I paint with this?"* A few rubber bath toys I found at a garage sale made awesome designs. One of my favorites was a frog's footprint. Easy to hang on to & clean up's a breeze.)
 107. Tubes (Empty toilet paper, paper towel and wrapping paper ones all work well. Just think, you are recycling and saving the planet too! Easy to hang on to without getting messy! Makes perfect circles when dipped and stamped. Great for math: Make a 6-circle caterpillar using all of the colors of the rainbow; or paint and roll. Wrap yarn on, that you've dipped in glue, let dry, for cool roller designs.)
 108. Twigs (Use separately for a scratchy design, hold like a brush, or paint and roll various lengths.)

109. Utensils (Ones used for cooking that are meant for crimping, crinkling, mashing, or pounding, that won't harm a child. i.e. I have several meat pounders and potato mashers with awesome designs on them, a pie thing with 4 metal wheels that makes holes in the pies I don't have time to bake, but makes awesome designs when dipped and rolled on paper, etc.)
110. Vegetables (If you cheated and skipped down here to see what on earth I had for letter V, check out celery & green peppers, but don't stop there. Be creative!
111. Washcloths (Rubber band to make a ball. I LOVE the texture of a washcloth. A long strip makes a great grass print, or stamped willy-nilly can later be cut into a cat or dog shape as it also looks like fur.)
112. Wax paper (Gently scrunch in small-medium and large balls.)
113. X-tra stuff you have lying around the house with no particular use. Look at it; does it make a cool design when you slop some paint on it and swish or stamp away? **X-cellent!** Put it in the paintbrush box.
114. Yarn
115. Zippers (Well I had to have a Z. Seriously, paint, press and have every student this as their mouth when they draw a self-portrait. Caption: *I promise to keep my lips zipped when I am supposed to.* Have them sign this pictorial "contract". Glue on my **Wanted Poster** template. Then hang as a bulletin board. Caption of bulletin board: *These Children Are Wanted For Being Great Rule-Following Students Who Keep Their Promises.*)



You've done it; you've come to the end my friend!
I hope you got a few new ideas.
Let the creative juices flow, the fun begin, and the mess-terpiece masterpieces start to be made!



"Every child is and artist. The problem is staying an artist when you grow up."

—Pablo Picasso.