



**Long Activity**  
**Ages 9–12**  
**60 minutes**

## Storytelling Stones

---

### Description

Use stones to make art and then tell a story with them

### Competencies

- Creative and imaginative thinking
- Development of fine motor skills
- Planning skills
- Oral communication skills
- Written communication skills
- Creative expression

### Materials

- Stones and pebbles
- Various colours of paint (acrylic paint works best but you can use tempera, poster paint or watercolours)
- Paintbrushes
- Pencils
- Paper
- Optional: markers or paint pens
- Optional: tape

### Preparation

- Collect stones of various shapes and sizes, then wash and dry them
  - It's best to choose smooth, flat stones and pebbles, but irregular and rough ones can also work
  - If you are unable to collect stones outside, many craft, dollar, and garden supply stores offer a variety of stones for purchase
  - Alternatively, participants can collect their own stones by going outside at the start of the program if you have a suitable location nearby, or they

- can be instructed to collect the stones in advance and bring them to the program
- Prepare the room for a program that uses paint

## **Implementation**

1. Provide participants with a minimum of three stones each
2. Participants paint the stones as desired (e.g. faces, plants, animals, words, geometric shapes, patterns, vehicles, numbers, and letters)
3. If desired, participants can outline a design in pencil on the stones before painting
4. If desired, participants can use masking tape to create sharp lines (wrap the tape around a portion of the stone, paint the uncovered part, wait for the paint to dry and then carefully remove the tape)
5. If desired, participants can design and paint a multi-stone image (e.g. create a rabbit by using a round stone for the head, two thin oval stones for ears, a larger oval stone for the body, and four oval or triangle-shaped stones or pebbles for legs)
6. Once participants have finished painting their stones, challenge them to create a story using all their designs; they can tell their story to the group, or write it down on paper
7. Participants can combine their stones or switch with others and then tell different stories

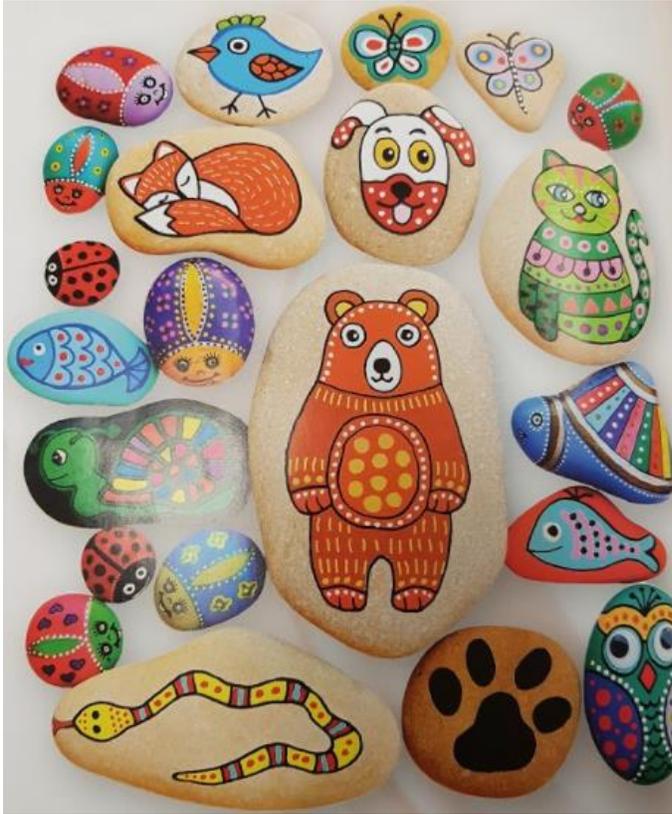
## **Book Suggestions**

*Island in the Salish Sea* by Sheryl McFarlane

*Utterly Amazing Earth* by Dougal Jerram

*The Wild Beast* by Eric Walters

## Images and Templates



Images from *Stone Painting for Kids* by F. Sehnaz Bac (Dover Publications, 2018).