Painting with Gypsum

Thousands of years ago, people crushed rocks and minerals to obtain colors for paints. Gypsum has been used as a white pigment. Gypsum is readily accessible in your classroom in the form of chalk. Use the materials and instructions listed below to create gypsum paintings.

Materials for each student:

- 1 piece white chalk
- 1 plastic re-sealable bag
- Glue-water solution (1 tbsp. glue with 1 tbsp. water)
- Newspaper
- 23 cm x 30 cm sheet black construction paper
- 1 paintbrush
- 1 paper cup
- 1 plastic spoon
- Toy hammer

Instructions

1. Put your chalk inside the plastic bag, flatten the bag to remove the extra air, and close the bag securely.
2. Place the bag in between layers of newspaper for cushioning.
3. Use a toy hammer to carefully crush the chalk into a powder.
4. Pour the chalk powder into the paper cup and add the glue solution. Mix thoroughly with a spoon.
5. Use the chalk paint and the paintbrush to create a picture on the black construction paper.