

## Pebbles and Branches Art

### Topic

Tu B'Shevat, Art

### Grade Level(s)

All ages

### Goals for the Lesson/Activity

#### **Students will:**

- Connect to Tu B'Shevat by using natural material to make a creative art project
- Apply Jewish texts to their Tu B'Shevat artwork
- Appreciate that even the most mundane material can create unusual and beautiful art



### Materials needed

- Pebbles and mosaic gems — approximately 15 per students (collected from outside or purchased)\*
- Branches from outside — one per student (need to be completely dry and wiped)
- Thin and thick black or colored Sharpies\*
- Quotes (download)
- Foam board (white or colored) cut to about 11" x 13"\*
- Glue (E6000 is the glue used in this project)\*
- Jute or any other natural twine\*

\*Items can be purchased at a local craft store.

### Background for Teachers

Nature is the central theme of Tu B'Shevat. We celebrate the New Year of the trees and the start of spring in Israel. Using natural material instead of manufactured material helps us appreciate the nature around us and take steps toward preserving our planet.

### Prepare in Advance

- Cut, clean and dry the branches
- If you are using pebbles from outside, clean and dry them.



## **Pebbles and Branches Art**

### **Description of Activities**

1. Review the significance of Tu B'Shevat and discuss the Tu B'Shevat quotes
2. Discuss the significance of using natural items in art.
  - a. Ask students why using natural objects is especially appropriate on Tu B'Shevat.
  - b. Explore how natural objects can be manipulated to fit an artist's vision.
3. Hand out foam board Students choose a Tu B'Shevat quote and write it around the border of the foam in Hebrew and English with thin Sharpies.
4. Students arrange the branches and pebbles on the board to make a natural scene like the tree-with-birds picture example.
5. When they have a final design, students glue the material to the board
6. Students use embellish their artwork by using the thick Sharpies to add legs, beaks, a swing or whatever else they would like.

### **Differentiation Options**

Knowing that students learn in a variety of ways and modalities, the following options are provided to adjust the above lesson to meet the unique needs of your learners.

#### ***For learners who need more assistance***

- Student write the quote in English or omit the quote entirely.
- Students create abstract art.
- Have *madrichim* on hand to help with placement and gluing.

#### ***For learners who need extension opportunities***

- Students research their own Tu B'Shevat quotes and add them to their artwork.