

It Shall Blossom Abundantly...

ISAIAH 35:2

Have you ever been out walking in the springtime and suddenly you've come to an orchard of apple, peach, apricot, cherry, pear, or citrus trees or maybe even just a single tree which is in full bloom? Have you breathed in the luxurious scent of the blossoms and been almost forced to stand back aghast in the exquisite beauty of what you have seen before you? Such an experience can actually be overwhelming if you take your senses to be totally open to what nature can do at this time of the year. Photographs provide a partial view of the real thing - a glorious burst of color and fragrance beyond imagination.



view of the existing living things. Such an experience is overwhelming to let your senses be totally open to what nature can do at this time of the year. Photographs provide a partial view of the real thing - a glorious burst of color and fragrance beyond imagination.

I can recall with great fondness when I lived on a school campus which

sat in the middle

of groves of orange, grapefruit, and lemon trees. I imagine heaven to be somewhat like those trees in full bloom, it was so extraordinary. I recall another spring when I happened upon a lone cherry tree in a courtyard of an old abbey when out walking one day. The sight of that tree was so overpowering that I was compelled to hurry home as quickly as possible, get out some paints and attempt to recreate the wonder of what I had seen.

No doubt many artists have had similar experiences. Two French impressionist painters, Claude Monet and Camille Pissarro, whose paintings *Apple Trees in Bloom* (1873), and *Orchard in Bloom* (1872), are a couple of examples of art work inspired by the marvels of spring blossoms. If you have access to a print of one of these or other similar paintings, or if you are actually able to view in real life - it would be an extraordinary thing to take a class to see - a tree or several trees in the full bloom of spring, allow your students to experience as much as possible such a painting or such a sight. Notice the brilliance of the flowers, the way the tree trunks and branches are growing. Think how you might attempt to reproduce the beautiful blooms with many small splotches of paint against a background of green or other color.

Shall we try our hand at producing a brilliant spring tree-inspired art work ourselves? To begin with, we will need a background for which we could use a couple of sheets of construction paper, one color for the sky and one color for the ground.

First place the sky sheet on your desk. Now carefully and deliberately tear one edge of the ground colored sheet to make a soft edge on the horizon line. Glue the two pieces together.

Now choose a color or colors to create a tree trunk and branches for one or more trees. Make the trees as interestingly shaped as you wish and large enough to cover most of the paper background. You may decide to draw and cut out of paper and glue in place the tree trunk or you may prefer to paint the tree trunk onto the background. If you choose to use paint for the tree trunk, you will



need to let the paint dry before continuing. In the meantime, you may wish to make a second background, perhaps in a different format (horizontal or vertical) from the first one. By the time your second background is together and a new tree trunk painted, the first paint may be dry on the original background.



Next decide what color or colors your blossoms will be - white, pink, a combination etc. Then with a brush, dab one or more colors all over the tree branch area, thick in some places and thin in others until you have a bright exciting spring tree blooming right before your very eyes. Another technique that may be useful in this case is to use an old tooth brush with paint on it to give a more mottled effect.

Add any other finishing touches you think may be desired to give your painting pizzazz, and then, stand back and VOILA! what a masterpiece of color and beauty you have created! What a remarkable bulletin board or other display can be made with a whole classroom full of gorgeous fruit trees in full bloom!

