SECRET NOV8 AGENT INK

Picking Up S.T.E.A.M.

The bright colors of berries come from a natural plant dye called anthocyanin. It can change color! After writing the message with baking soda, we let it dry. The H2O evaporates, but the baking soda stays on the paper as tiny white crystals. When we smash a blackberry onto the paper, the natural fruit dye turns green as it touches the streaks of baking soda crystals, but remains red/purple in the other parts of the paper.

You need:
- Blackberries or raspberries
- Regular white paper
- Baking soda (not baking powder)
- Cup of water (H2O)
- Spoon for mixing
- Paintbrush (thickness of a pinky or smaller)

How to:

1. Add 5 tablespoons of baking soda into 1 cup of warm H2O. Stir for 1 minute to dissolve (not all of it will), and then allow the baking soda to settle at the bottom of the cup.

2. Dip your brush into the water, dab off the excess and draw a simple picture on the paper. Allow the paper to dry (the image disappears!).

3. Allow the paper to dry (the image disappears!).

4. Once it is dry, take a berry in your hand and move it back and forth across the paper, lightly smashing the berry in to it. Your message or picture will reappear!

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