

# NATURE ART



## Overview

*This is a series of creative activities which can easily be done outside with minimal equipment. Students will develop creativity, imagination and will enjoy being in and connecting with nature.*

## Curriculum links

**PSHE:** team work, confidence

**Science:** using various materials

**Maths:** symmetry

**Wellbeing:** relaxation, mindful activities

## Activity: Nature colour palettes

**Suggested resources:** paper or card, double sided sticky tape, paint sample cards

What variety of colours can you collect in nature? Leaves and flowers can be stuck to double sided sticky tape on a paper bracelet or crown. Children can find colours in nature that match paint sample cards, or try and make the whole rainbow from autumn leaves.

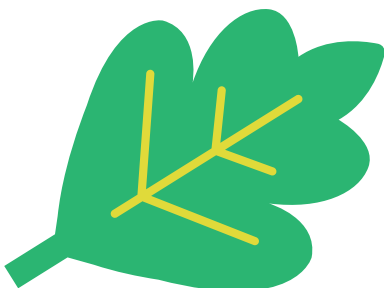


## Activity: Clay tree faces

The "Green Man" is a character or spirit found in many different culture through the ages. Can you create your own Green Man face by sculpting a clay face onto a tree and decorating with leaves, seeds and berries?



**Suggested resources:** Images of the Green Man, clay, natural materials



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Suggested resources: string or tape, stones if windy



Avon  
Wildlife Trust



## Activity: Symmetrical art

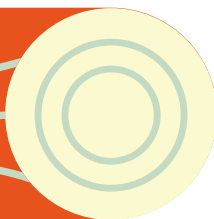
Ask students to create art using natural objects, which includes lines of symmetry. Students can demarcate the line of symmetry using string or tape.

## Activity: Build nests

Use the materials you have around you to build nests for birds. You could award points based on how sturdy, creative and beautiful the nests are.



Suggested resources: willow, ivy, other natural materials



Suggested resources: chalk or paper and pencil

## Activity: Sundial

Children make a structure with natural materials they find and then draw or chalk around its shadow. You can talk about the shadow - will it move or change shape - why does it do that?



## Activity: Bark rubbing

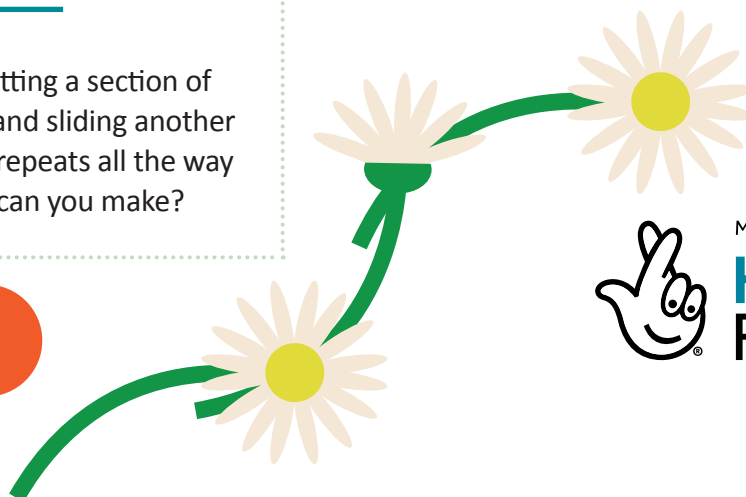
Take a piece of paper and hold it up against a tree. Rub the crayon against the tree and it will leave an imprint of the tree's bark. Can you get different imprints from different trees? Can you make a picture using your imprints? Stick leaves to the picture to make your own tree

Suggested resources: Crayon and paper

## Activity: Daisy Chains

Daisy chains are made by spitting a section of the stalk of a daisy into two and sliding another daisy through the hole. This repeats all the way along making a chain. What can you make?

Suggested resources: a field with daisies!



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## Activity: Sun prints

Suggested resources: sugar paper (aka construction paper).  
You can also buy sun-sensitive paper for incredible results

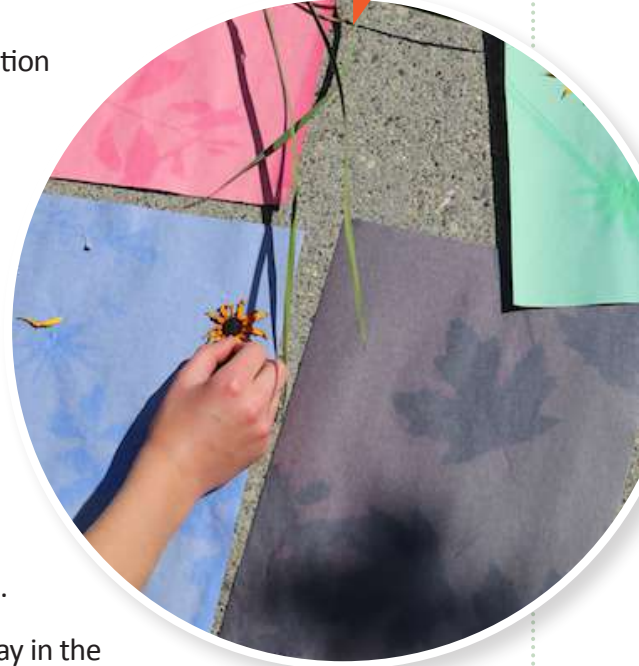
This only works when it's sunny. Find some interesting nature objects and lay them onto sugar/construction paper in an arty way. Leave them in direct sunlight and the sun will leave shadows behind the objects they placed. Weigh down objects with stones or plexi-glass if it is windy.

### Sun prints in action:

This activity is a fun way of teaching children about light waves, and the importance of wearing sunscreen.

Certain light waves, called ultraviolet (UV) waves, have enough energy to break the bonds of chemicals, like the dyes in construction paper. In this experiment, the paper shaded by leaves and flowers didn't change colour, but the rest of the paper did, because the UV waves broke chemical bonds in the paper dye.

UV light can damage skin too. That's why we wear sunscreen or stay in the shade when the sun is shining strong.



## Activity: Tidy-up art

After discussing the problems of littering and waste, do a litter pick, or use materials from your school recycling bins. After washing everything thoroughly, students can create 2D and 3D artwork from the litter. This artwork could be part of a wider anti-litter or anti-single use plastic campaign in your school.

