



## Creative Connections Exploring Natural Art in the Woodland

### KS2 Activity: "Nature's Palette: Creating Woodland Art"

#### Objective:

Students will explore the woodland environment to collect natural materials, learn about the importance of sustainability, and create detailed artwork inspired by shapes, colours, and textures. The activity fosters creativity, critical thinking, and an appreciation of the environment while linking to the KS2 National Curriculum in Art, Science, and Geography.

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**Age Group:** KS2

**Duration:** 1.5 hours

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#### Curriculum Links:

- **Art and Design:** Improve mastery of art techniques, including texture and pattern, using natural materials; produce creative work and develop ideas.
  - **Science:** Recognise how living things and materials adapt to and interact with their environments.
  - **Geography:** Understand the physical features of the environment and how human activity impacts nature.
  - **PSHE:** Develop respect for the natural world and awareness of sustainable practices.
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#### Materials Needed:

- Collection baskets or small buckets
  - Natural materials (leaves, twigs, stones, moss, pinecones, etc.)
  - Cardboard or biodegradable mats as a base
  - Eco-friendly glue (optional)
  - String or wool for framing or securing creations
  - Examples of natural art (e.g., Andy Goldsworthy) for inspiration
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#### Activity Plan:

##### 1. Introduction to Natural Art (15 minutes):

- Begin with a short talk:
    - Show images of Andy Goldsworthy's natural art and discuss how he uses patterns, textures, and materials.
    - Ask: "What materials can we find in the woodland? How can we use them in our art?"
    - Emphasise sustainability: Only use fallen or dead materials and respect the environment.
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##### 2. Exploration and Material Collection (20 minutes):

- Guide students on a walk through the woodland:
  - Task them with observing and collecting interesting materials.



- Ask them to record notes or sketches about how their materials fit into the woodland ecosystem (optional).
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### 3. Art Creation (35 minutes):

- Students work individually or in small groups to create their art pieces:
    - Encourage creativity by exploring patterns, layering, and arranging materials into shapes or scenes.
    - Provide guidance on techniques, such as how to bind materials or use textures creatively.
    - Link back to sustainability by challenging students to use all their collected materials efficiently.
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### 4. Sharing and Reflection (20 minutes):

- Students present their artwork and explain:
    - The materials they chose and why.
    - How their work reflects the natural environment.
  - Discuss:
    - “What did you learn about the woodland today?”
    - “Why is it important to protect and respect natural spaces?”
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### Outcomes:

- Students deepen their understanding of natural materials and their properties.
  - They develop creativity, problem-solving, and teamwork skills.
  - They build an appreciation for sustainability and the role of art in expressing connections to nature.
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### Extension Ideas:

- Create a large collaborative woodland mural with individual contributions.
- Incorporate mapping skills by marking the locations where materials were found.
- Discuss the impact of human activity on natural environments and explore actions to protect them.

