



## Creative Connections Exploring Natural Art in the Woodland

### Nature's Palette: Creating Woodland Art

#### Objective:

Children will explore the woodland environment, gather natural materials, and create their own artwork inspired by the shapes, colours, and textures they observe. This activity promotes creativity, fine motor skills, and an appreciation of nature, linking to the KS1 Art and Design and Science curriculum.

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**Age Group:** KS1

**Duration:** 1 hour

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#### Curriculum Links:

- **Art and Design:** Use a range of materials creatively to design and make products; develop techniques in using colour, texture, pattern, line, shape, and form.
  - **Science:** Identify and name a variety of common plants and materials found in the local environment.
  - **PSHE:** Develop curiosity and respect for the natural world.
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#### Materials Needed:

- Collection baskets or small buckets
  - Natural materials found in the woodland (e.g., leaves, twigs, bark, pinecones, stones)
  - Cardboard or fabric squares as a base for the artwork
  - Eco-friendly glue (optional)
  - String for framing or hanging
  - Laminated inspiration cards showing examples of natural art (e.g., Andy Goldsworthy's work)
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#### Activity Plan:

##### 1. Introduction to Natural Art (10 minutes):

- Begin with a discussion:
    - "What can we find in the woodland that we can use to make art?"
    - Show examples of natural art, emphasising colours, patterns, and shapes.
    - Explain the idea of *sustainable art* – using materials responsibly (e.g., only collecting fallen items).
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##### 2. Woodland Exploration and Material Collection (15 minutes):

- Guide children on a short walk to gather materials.
  - Encourage them to observe colours, textures, and shapes.
  - Remind them to take only what they need, leaving enough for wildlife.
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### 3. Creating Woodland Art (25 minutes):

- Children use their collected materials to create an art piece on their cardboard or fabric base.
  - Encourage creativity by prompting them to:
    - Arrange materials to create patterns or pictures (e.g., a leaf mandala or a woodland animal).
    - Experiment with layering or overlapping materials.
  - Offer support while letting them lead the process.
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### 4. Sharing and Reflecting (10 minutes):

- Each child presents their artwork, explaining the materials they used and why.
  - Discuss:
    - What they enjoyed about the activity.
    - Why it's important to protect and respect the woodland.
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### Outcomes:

- Children develop an understanding of natural materials and their properties.
  - They learn to appreciate and connect with the natural environment.
  - The activity fosters creativity, self-expression, and fine motor skill development.
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### Extension Ideas:

- Create a collaborative woodland mural with all the individual art pieces.
- Link the activity to storytelling by encouraging children to imagine a woodland creature inspired by their artwork.
- Follow up with a science lesson on plant life cycles or seasonal changes in nature.

