

Nature Study

Created for Lakeside Arts by artists Jane Stockley and Rosny Hayward

Go for a walk in your local area. Whilst outside, locate natural objects, such as trees, flowers, hedges, leaves, branches and stones. A tree would be perfect, as there is lots to draw and discover, but if that is too difficult you could choose a plant, hedgerow or a collection of weeds!

(If you aren't getting out, are self-isolating or are uncomfortable about spending time outside your house you could use something from your own garden if you have one, something you can see from your window, or even a house plant!)

Each day this week do one of the set tasks, the idea is that you will slowly be getting to know your tree/plant through observation and drawing.



Day one: Photograph your piece of nature.

Use each of these words/sentences as a prompt for a photograph

edges	shape	up close, something familiar made strange
a texture	a flash or swath of colour	underneath
through	a shadow or shadows/ dappled light/ dark and shade	unusual view points (kneel down/jump up)

You could arrange the final images as a collage, by printing them out or use a free app such as 'layout' to create a digital collage.



Day Two: Textures

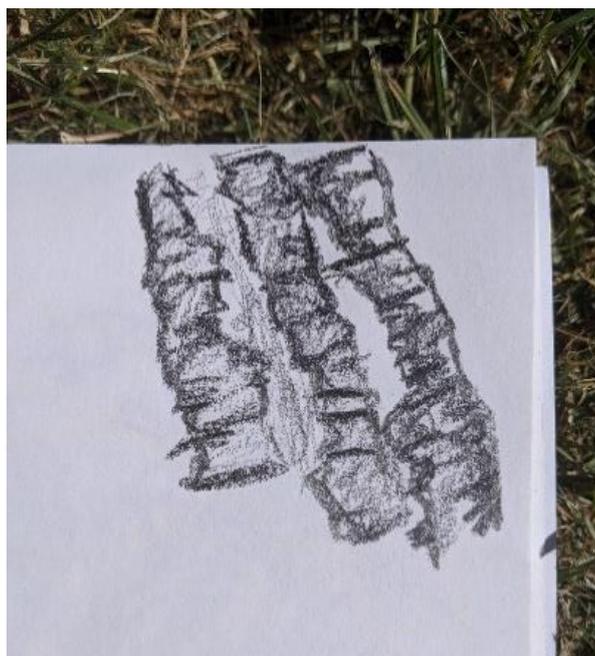
Today, take out with you some paper and one or all of the following – a pencil, wax crayon or graphite stick/ charcoal. The paper doesn't have to be white, you could take out a mix of papers such as a brown paper bag, a kitchen towel or even a thin piece of plain light fabric.

Take rubbings of your tree/plant see how many textures you can find and how they appear when done using different medium (i.e. pencil/wax crayon) and on different materials or types of paper.

Try to take the rubbings from different parts of the tree/plant.

See if you can also do a drawing of one of the textures you can find.

(If you are doing something out of the window you won't be able to do rubbings! See if you can draw the textures, also if you have chosen something delicate you might need to do this as well, please don't damage any garden plants!)



Day Three: Line

Today create some single line drawings of your chosen piece of nature, if it is big (like a tree) you can do a small section, if it is small you can do the whole thing!

A single line drawing means you draw without taking your pen off of the paper, so your drawing is just one line. You also need to look at the object rather than the page. You may get a strange squiggle rather than an accurate portrayal of the object but this exercise is all about **LOOKING** and you will learn more about your object by studying it carefully and tracing it with your eyes.

Try to do three or four from different angles. You could do these on separate pieces of paper, or draw them all on top of each other with a different coloured pen.

I think a black pen or felt tips works well for this, but again you might want to take a couple of different items out with you.



Day Four: Details

Create a viewfinder like this out a card, this one is cut from a cereal box.



Find some interesting sections of your plant or tree and draw them! You can add as much detail as you would like, think about the texture in each one, the lines and even the negative space if there is some.

If you don't want to draw in-situ, photograph and then draw your pictures at home.

Draw three or four pictures using your viewfinder from different angles.



Day Five: Drawing

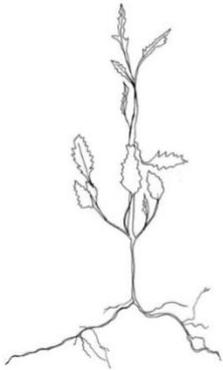
Final day! Today is the long draw. Think about the techniques we have used this week and think about how you could document your plant/tree. You could do a pencil drawing of it, or a line drawing or perhaps focus on textures. Either find a good spot to stay for a while, or take some photos to work from. Create a drawing of your plant/tree.



Well done, you have completed an in-depth artistic study of nature!

Lots of artists use nature for inspiration, here are just a few to look at:

Jaques Nimki



Caroline Rothwell



Paul Morrison

