



Activity 1 – Create art inspired by nature

Explore the natural world and choose an object to be the focus of an art project. Create a piece of artwork inspired by this item and use it to demonstrate your feelings and experiences of nature.

Use this art activity to fulfil the **Share your woodland words and images** challenge.

www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/support-us/act/your-school/green-tree-schools-award/woodland-words-and-images/

Worth two points on the award.



Curriculum requirements KS3

Students should have the opportunity to:

- produce creative artwork, exploring their ideas and recording their experiences
- use a range of techniques to record their observations in sketchbooks, journals and other media as a basis for exploring their ideas
- use a range of techniques and media, including painting
- increase their proficiency in the handling of different materials
- analyse and evaluate their own work, and that of others, in order to strengthen the visual impact or applications of their work.

Learning outcomes

After completing this activity, students will have:

- spent time outside near trees or in a woodland
- used photography skills to record what they see near trees or in a woodland
- chosen an art medium and incorporated a natural object into their artwork
- used their artwork to represent their experience and how they feel about nature.



Preparation and resources

The following materials will help you deliver this activity successfully.

Outdoors – in a local woodland, park or your school grounds

- risk assessments
- health and safety equipment
- outdoor clothing and footwear suitable for all weathers

In the classroom

AV equipment to show the film 'What is ancient woodland?'

www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/trees-woods-and-wildlife/habitats/ancient-woodland/

- photographs of a natural landscape or feature (if pupils are unable to explore outdoors)
- art equipment and mixed media resources

Location

Different parts of this activity can be carried out in different places



On a woodland visit

If possible, go to a local woodland before the lesson so students can take photographs of nature or find an object to take back to school, for example a fallen leaf, pine cone or acorn.



In your school grounds or a local park

Alternatively, go into your school grounds or a local park with trees before or as part of your lesson. Sit underneath some trees and discuss why British trees are valuable. Pupils can take photographs of nature or find an object to take back to school, for example a fallen leaf, pine cone or acorn.



In the classroom

The starter activity, main art project and plenary activity can all be completed in class.



Starter activity (10 minutes)

Watch our video: What is ancient woodland?

Watch the film then discuss these two questions in pairs and feed back to the whole class:

- How is a British woodland valuable for wildlife?
- How is a British woodland valuable for people?

Main activity (40 minutes)

Before the lesson, students should have the opportunity to go outdoors: either on the school grounds, to a local park with trees, or to a local woodland.

Students are required to find a fallen leaf, acorn, pine cone or another piece of nature that has fallen from a British tree. (Please encourage students to be considerate of the natural environment and not to damage or break things off trees.)

Alternatively, students can take a photograph of a natural object or access an image of a natural landscape to inspire their project.

From their experiences in nature, students will produce a piece of artwork in their chosen medium. This could be pencil, acrylic paint, oil pastels or mixed media (for example recycled materials). Students could even incorporate the natural object they collected into their artwork.

Artwork should visually resemble the piece of nature students have collected or studied, as well as represent how they feel about nature.

Plenary/evaluation (10 minutes)

To end the lesson, ask students to present their artwork to the class and encourage them to describe their work and how nature makes them feel.



Extension

Challenge students to create art using only natural materials, such as fallen leaves, petals or sticks. This activity can be done on a woodland visit or in your school grounds. For inspiration, encourage pupils to research land artists such as Andy Goldsworthy and Richard Shilling and explore ephemeral art.

Students can further develop their skills and ideas by designing an art installation inspired by nature, to go on a wall or among trees in your school grounds.