



Instructions for Natural Paintbrushes

Lesson prep time	30 min	Lesson duration	1 - 2 hours
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Create your own drawing and painting tools using natural materials.

SKILLS	EXPERIENCES & OUTCOMES	THEMES	AREA
Sculpture	Explore media ✓	Natural environment ✓	Design ✓
Drawing & Painting ✓	Use visual elements ✓	Storytelling/fantasy/imagination	Expressive
Printmaking	Observe & record	Culture/history ✓	
Craft ✓	Respond to stimuli ✓	Figure	
Digital/Photography	Solve design problems ✓	Face & expression	
Textiles	Share & display Analyse & discuss		

Learning Intentions & Success Criteria

Age group	We are learning:	We can:
early	n/a	n/a
first	to make our own paint brushes and drawing tools using found natural materials.	select natural materials to make drawing and painting tools
second	to make our own paint brushes and drawing tools using found natural materials.	select natural materials to make drawing and painting tools and use them effectively

Materials:

- Collected materials eg, wool, twigs, leaves, shells + sticks and twigs for handles
- String
- Glue gun
- Making tape
- Ink/diluted paint/crushed charcoal/powder paint
- Aprons
- Large sheets of paper

Introduction and input:

We will be using found materials from nature to make our own drawing tools. Discuss cave paintings and how early humans would have discovered how to draw and use handmade tools to paint. The emphasis of this lesson should be on the process of mark-making. It's important the pupils do not feel self-con-scious when using their drawing tools, the lesson is focused on finding as many ways as possible to create different marks and textures.

Main Activity:

1. Spend some time outdoors collecting the materials the pupils will use for making their drawing tools. Discuss the features the materials will need for example, does it need to absorb ink? Is it too sharp for the paper?
2. Once the class has collected enough materials to start making their tools, discuss how they are going to use them. Will they need to attach the wool to a stick to make a paintbrush? What's the best way to do this?

- 3.** Allow plenty of time for experimentation. Pupils should have some scrap paper to test their tools.
- 4.** Once each pupil has made a couple of drawing/painting tools, set up a still life arrangement that is visible for each group or the whole class. They will attempt to paint or draw this using only their handmade tools – no pencils allowed!
- 5.** Each pupil should have access to a few sheets of paper for their paintings.



Plenary:

First/Second:

Give each pupil a chance to share, assess and discuss their finished artwork and their handmade tools.

Which materials worked well?
What made it easy/hard to use?

Further Activity Suggestions:

FIRST/SECOND:

Pupils could also explore methods of making their own paints and pigments.
<https://www.imaginghistory.co.uk/post/creating-a-cave-painting>

literacy/history links:
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/school-radio/assemblies-ks1-ks2-maria-de-sautuola-cave-paintings-altamira/zmb6m39>