

Respecting Differences - Visual Arts (Free Painting / Drawing / Collage)

Aim:

To use painting and drawing to highlight how diversity helps us have a richer life experience

Activity description:

Pupils will create natural artworks in order to reflect on the richness diversity brings to human communities.

Starter activity:

Think of a forest or woodland. There might be one nearby or one in which you go to play or walk. A forest is made up of lots of different kinds of trees. It thrives on this diversity. The different trees, shrubs, bushes, plants and flowers, insects and birds all make the woodland a richer and more rewarding place. All the different elements of the forest exist in harmony and help keep it in balance. This is the same for the world and for their community.

Your community is like a rich woodland. Think about where you live and how many different places and spaces there are. Are the houses all the same? Have people decorated the gardens to show their personality? The place you live, your community, is like a rich woodland. All the people bring their own uniqueness to contribute to the harmonious whole of the community.

Main activity:

Create your own environmental art.

Go for a walk outside and collect different pieces that have fallen from the trees, maybe some leaves and twigs, petals and fir cones. Try and get as many different pieces as you can.

Create a piece of artwork with the pieces while you are outside (or bring back indoors if the weather is not nice) and photograph it to share with the class or if you are on your own, with a sibling or parent. If you are taking them home give them a gentle wash in some soapy water before you start.

Consider the following when you are creating your artwork:

- Have you collected items of different shapes, colours and sizes?
- Is it easy to put them together in your artwork?
- Do you think your artwork is better or worse because you have included items of different shapes, colours and sizes?
- What might this suggest about our community being made up of different people?

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Here are some examples for you to think about:



See what you can make with your own collection of nature.



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This work is by Andy Goldsworthy, a famous environmental artist.

See how he has used all the different colours and shapes and placed them on a dark background to make them really stand out.



The piece below is by Coleen Proppe, a French artist. It looks simple but can you see how many different elements there are?

Can you see a landscape?



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Alana Hansen is one of the leading Land artists.
Her work below uses fun to show nature in a new way.



Time required

Up to an hour

Materials required

Resources collected from the natural world, background paper if indoors, glue stick, camera.



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Examples

Andy Goldsworthy: <https://www.livingyourwildcreativity.com/art-gallery-1-mitchell-1>

There is a short film you can watch about his work here:

<https://www.tate.org.uk/art/artists/andy-goldsworthy-7274>

Andy Holt and Nancy Smithson: <https://holtsmithsonfoundation.org>

Alana Hansen makes Earth Art:

<https://www.alanahansen.art/environmental-art>

A piece about other land and environmental artists:

<https://www.landuum.com/en/history-and-culture/land-art-landscape-as-a-canvas/>

(A land artist is someone who sculpts with the land, an environmental artist is someone who makes art from pieces of nature found on the ground.)

