

EYFS: How Can We Explore Materials & Marks?

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We don't just have to paint on paper – the world is full of textures and materials which we can use as surfaces for artwork!

How can we transform the surfaces around us by using line, colour and shape, and how can we make the objects we decorate reflect our personality?

The way it feels to add paint or collage to a surface changes depending upon the qualities of that surface. Is it textured or smooth? Shiny or absorbent? What shape is it? What kinds of tool might we use to paint with? What do the colours look like and what kinds of marks might we make? Does the object or surface we are painting on give us clues as to what we might paint?

Resources in this section encourage EYFS and SEND learners to be open and inventive about the surfaces on which they make art.



EYFS

SEND



Try These Activities...

[Ducklings](#)



Explore making a variety of marks using print and paint. [See the Resource.](#)

Printing with String



Explore three different methods of creating simple prints using string and poster paint. [See the Resource.](#)

Mark Making & Sound



Adapt this resource to enable an exploration of drawing inspired by sounds. [See the Resource.](#)

Nursery Night Time Collage



Create night time scenes with collage and wax-resist [See the Resource.](#)

Imaginary Landscapes



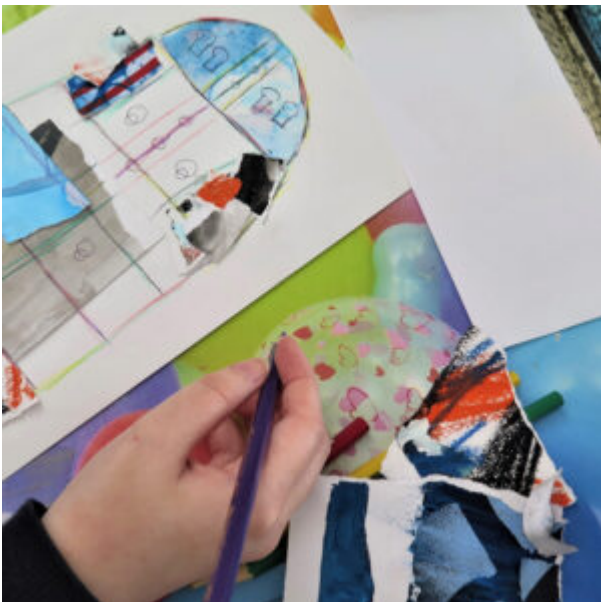
Explore landscape through tactile mark-making and collage. [See the Resource.](#)

Transforming Objects



Explore the world around you and see what you can find. Explore colour in fun ways using shape, pattern and line to transform objects into new forms. [See the Resource.](#)

Collage Streets



Use collage imaginatively in two ways to create individual pieces, that can be joined together to

form a collaborative piece. [See the Resource.](#)

[Galaxy Painting](#)



Use this classic watercolour technique to create a colourful galaxy scene. [See the Resource.](#)

[Drawing on Pebbles](#)



Transform pebbles and stones into fossils by exploring how different media feels on the

textured surface. [See the Resource.](#)

[Collaging with Wax Crayon Rubbings](#)



Create collages from rubbings, promoting skills such as dexterity, mark-making and dexterity, as well as nurturing curiosity about textures and surfaces in the world. [See the Resource.](#)

[Repeat Pattern Printing Roller](#)



Explore the tactile qualities of materials combined with movement to make patterns. [See the Resource.](#)

[Autumn Floor Textiles](#)



Experiment with wax resist on calico to create a seasonal tapestry. [See the Resource.](#)

[Dressing Up As Fossils](#)



Adapt this resource to enable children to create large scale drawings or paintings and explore their relationship with the artwork they create. [See the Resource.](#)

[Painting the Savannah](#)



Create a painting of the Savannah using techniques such as mono printing, drawing, painting and collage. [See the Resource.](#)

[Painting T-Shirts](#)



Give learners the opportunity to design and paint their own T-shirt designs. [See the Resource.](#)

Modroc Plasterboard



Create casts in plasterboards by moulding modroc over found materials to create textured surfaces to paint on. [See the Resource.](#)

Clay Pens



Provide a tactile experience, explore mark-making and create something which can be used. [See the Resource.](#)

Exploring These Materials...

[Exploring Wax Crayons](#)



[Explore how you can use wax crayons in creative ways](#), using them in the activities above.

[Painting with Poster Paint](#)



Open your mind and explore the many ways you can use poster paint in the class room. [See the Video.](#)



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[Explore our Primary Art Curriculum \(yrs 1 to 6\)](#)

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**A special thank you to Scola
and Daler Rowney for their
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