

Natural Expressions

Connect with nature through outdoor art

12+

Art and Design



Nature offers an ideal context for exploring **the 7 elements of art**:

Line – Can be sharp, angular, soft or curved; conveying movement, contours or expressions.

Shape – Can be geometric or irregular. Shapes can be representative or abstract.

Form – Refers to 3D shapes in sculpture or 3D design work. Shading can give shapes form in 2D works.

Tone – Created by representing the way light hits a 3D object with highlighting, and graded shading

Texture – Can be actual texture of the surface or a visual effect.

Pattern – Created from repeating lines, shapes, tones or colours

Colour – The impact of the piece is affected by the hue (colour), tone and intensity (brightness) used.

Activities

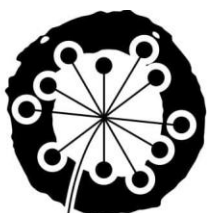
1. Offer children a mixture of natural and non-natural loose parts to express their appreciation of nature artistically with free choice of materials*; dimensions and subject.

*e.g. sticks, cones, shells, pebbles, leaves, seeds, sand, tarpaulins, fabric, cardboard, recyclable plastics, PE resources, Chalk, rope etc.

2. Use the outdoors/local nature as a stimulus for an art project where students must focus upon one of the 7 elements of art. Offer time outdoors to seek inspiration, take photographs or videos, collect artefacts and plan the work. Students can then return to class to work on the resultant piece.

3. Identify a subject from nature such as a rose, a tree or a landscape and recreate it in a work influenced by the style of a famous artist. For example:

Charles Rennie Mackintosh – Art Deco
Look at his depictions of flowers in his designs.
Georges Seurat – Pointillism
Look at 'La Seine à la Grande-Jatte'
Claude Monet – Impressionism
Look at 'Water Lilies'
Pablo Picasso – Abstract art / Cubism
Look at his works on trees and landscapes
Andy Warhol – Pop art
Look at his works on fruit or animals



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