



# Lesson idea: Collage



**Objective:** Create a nature inspired collage of a plant or animal

## What is collage?

Collage is a piece of art made by sticking different materials or shapes onto a backing.

## Lesson outline

Introduce your students to the artist Matisse. This could be showing a selection of his works or by reading the story of the snail together or watching it on YouTube.

Ask students how they think Matisse created his work. What do they think of his artwork? How does it make them feel?

Explain that Matisse used called his technique 'drawing with scissors'. He was often inspired by nature and the world around him.

Your class could either re-create his snail or choose another object from nature (maybe a plant or animal). Demonstrate how to cut out shapes and get to lay them on the paper to see how they look together before sticking them down. Then get your class to try it out for themselves.

Why not create your own Matisse inspired gallery!



## You will need:

- Coloured paper
- Plain paper
- Scissors
- Glue sticks or pva
- Objects to use as stimuli (optional)

## Useful links:

Art with Mati and Dada  
<https://bit.ly/2Y0dneE>

Matisse - Tate Gallery  
<https://bit.ly/2Xa66W6>



# Lesson idea: Dotty pictures



**Objective:** Create a picture using pointillist techniques

## What is pointillism?

Pointillism is a technique whereby pictures are created using lots of tiny dots of colour. When viewed from a distance they create a picture. It was pioneered by Georges Seurat in the 1886.

## Lesson outline

Show your students a pointillist picture such as 'A Sunday on La Grande Jatte' by Georges Seurat. Try zooming in on the picture - what can we see? Dots! When we see the image from a distance our minds blend the dots and we see a picture.

There are a number of ways you could try pointillism with your class. You could:

- use sticky dots to create a picture from scratch
- use sticky dots over a printed picture or within the lines of a colouring page
- Create dotty pictures using finger painting or
- dotting using a stick or paintbrush

Why not try check out the links and try creating a cherry blossom or autumn tree using this dotty technique! This could be combined with learning about the Cherry Blossom Festival in Japan.



## You will need:

- Plain paper
- Paints and cotton buds (optional)
- Coloured sticky dots (optional)
- Colouring pages (optional)

## Useful links:

Cherry Blossom Art  
<https://bit.ly/3aDIEDO>

Pointillism for kids (autumn tree)  
<https://bit.ly/3j233ac>

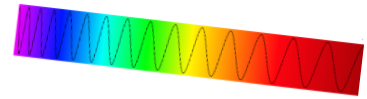
# Lesson idea: Insect vision



**Objective:** Create a picture with parts only insects can see.

## What is UV light?

Light is made up of different length electromagnetic waves. Human eyes can only see certain wavelengths and we call this visible light. Ultra violet (UV) is beyond the violet we can see - it has shorter waves and is invisible to us.



## Lesson outline

Show your students an image of a flower. What can they see? Explain that sunlight is actually made up of lots of colours – we can see them when we see a rainbow. However, there are even colours that human eyes can't see! Imagine a rainbow, some animals can see the colours past red – we call this infrared (think night vision goggles!) and some can see past violet – we call this ultraviolet (UV). Insects can see some of the visible light we can see but they can also see some UV too. It's hard for us to create exactly what an insect would see but the Insecta Spectra video gives a good idea. Share this with your students and imagine how they would see the world as an insect.

Get your students to have a go at drawing some flowers and then add in extra 'secret' detail for insects using a pen with invisible (UV) ink. This can be revealed using the UV torch in the loan box!

## You will need:

- Plain paper
- Paints or coloured pencils
- Spy pen (with UV ink)
- Flowers to draw
- UV torch

## Useful links:

Insecta Spectra

<https://bit.ly/3AIQy9J>

Show me the Honey:

Watch from 13:13 to find out about bee vision!

<https://bbc.in/3nasPKJ>



# Lesson idea: Bee active



**Objective:** Make a bee headband and learn a waggle dance!

## What is a waggle dance?

When bees have found a source of food they can communicate this to other bees in their hive by doing a special set of movements which we call a waggle dance.

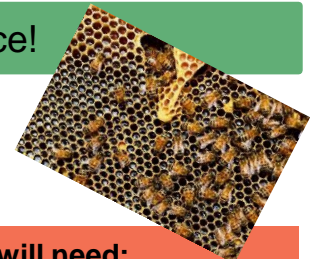
## Lesson outline

Honey bees live together in hives. What do bees like for food? Flowers! Share the Bee Dance story with your students. Recap that when bees find a source of food they will fly back to the hive and tell all the other bees how to get to the food by doing a special set of movements called a waggle dance.

Share the waggle dance video with your students.

Get your students to have a go at doing the movements of the waggle dance. Why not listen to some bee inspired music such as the nursery rhyme Here is the Beehive or classical pieces such as Flight of the Bumblebee by Rimsky Korsakov while dancing too!

You could use coloured paper or card to make headaddresses with your class that they could wear whilst re-creating their waggle dances.



## You will need:

- Black and yellow paper or card
- Scissors
- Glue or tape

## Useful links:

How to waggle dance

<https://bit.ly/3jgnINy>

Here is the Beehive

<https://bbc.in/3jivrFj>

Bee Dance by Rick Chrustowski

<https://bit.ly/3n8X9FC>

Flight of the Bumblebee

<https://bit.ly/30KBtln>



## Lesson idea: Flower pressing



**Objective:** Press flowers to make a piece of art or herbarium sheet

### What is Oshibana?

Oshibana is the Japanese art of using pressed flowers to create a piece of artwork. It originated in Japan in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century and became popular in Victorian times as trade with Japan increased.

### Lesson outline

Pressing flowers was a popular pastime for the Victorians. As well as being a hobby it also gives us good scientific and cultural records of the flowers that were around at the time.

By pressing flowers you are drying them out and this preserves them by removing moisture. If things contain moisture then they are likely to rot. Pressing flowers also stops them from shrivelling up as they dry. There are a number of different ways that you can press flowers and some take many weeks – check out the links for some guides on these. The Natural History Museum guide is great and also explains how to create a herbarium sheet to create a scientific record of the plants that are around now.

Try pressing some flowers or leaves with your students and turn them into a piece of art or a scientific herbarium sheet with notes about the plants on them.



### You will need:

- Flower press or a book to press your flowers in
- Plain paper
- Flowers or leaves to press

### Useful links:

Natural History Museum guide

<https://bit.ly/3DrXcmv>

4 methods for pressing flowers

<https://bit.ly/3C1JNB4>

## Lesson idea: Rock balancing



**Objective:** Create a piece of temporary art while practicing motor skills

### What is a rock cairn?

Rock cairns are human-made stacks of rocks. Historically they mean different things to different cultures. They may be navigational aids, monuments or represent a burial site.

### Lesson outline

Depending on your class ability or topic this could be linked to looking at types of rocks, the science of balancing things, different cultures from around the world or outdoor artists.

Adrian Grey is a stone balancing artist who works with sculpture and photography. Share some of the examples from his website and ask them what they think about the work.

Challenge your students to create their own stone balancing sculpture. Get them to identify how they would stay safe while doing this activity. Can they make a certain shape or pattern using the rocks? What is the tallest stack they can make – they can use a ruler to measure the height of their stack. Why not take pictures to record their artwork.

It is important to be careful where you do this as you don't want to do it where they could be confused as trail markers, speed up erosion of a site or destroy a habitat.



### You will need:

- Selection of rocks to stack
- Camera to record your artwork!

### Useful links:

Why people stack stones

<https://on.natgeo.com/3G4cfox>

Adrian Grey Stone Balancing

<https://bit.ly/2Z1PUH8>

# Lesson idea: Exploring textures



**Objective:** Experiment using plants to create textures in art

## What is texture in art?

Texture is how something feels. This could be how it feels if we could touch the artwork or visual texture (how something looks) – for example making an orange look bumpy in a still life painting.

## Lesson outline

There are lots of different ways artists can explore texture in their work. If we look at paintings by Van Gogh we can see texture where he has thickly applied oil paints as a form of expression. Amanda Ross is an artist who uses plants in her printing to create artworks. Share some of her artworks with your class. Do students have a favourite piece?

To explore texture your class could try printing using leaves, flowers and other parts of plants, taking rubbings from bark or leaves or even using twigs, grasses or leaves as paintbrushes to try different mark making techniques.

You could also press some leaves with your students and they could use the leaves as a canvas to show interesting textures in their work.



## You will need:

- A selection of leaves or other plant parts
- Paints
- Paintbrushes
- Paper or fabric

## Useful links:

Amanda Ross printing process  
<https://bit.ly/3m1sAlZ>

# Lesson idea: Anywhere artists



**Objective:** Create a piece of temporary outdoor art.

## What is ephemeral art?

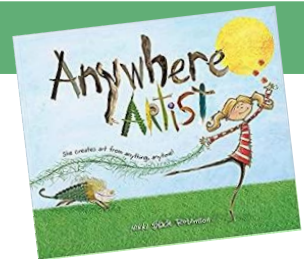
Ephemeral art is art that only lasts for a short amount of time and will eventually disappear. This includes not only physical art but also performances, sound sculptures and other happenings too.

## Lesson outline

Read the book *Anywhere Artist* by with your class. What do they think it means by 'anywhere artist'? Have your students ever looked outside for art? Have they imagined pictures in clouds? Some artists such as Andy Goldsworthy and Zach Pine use the materials they can find to create pieces of temporary art. Share some examples of their works with your students.

Get your students to have a go at being 'anywhere artists'. You could go on a walk and imagine pictures in the clouds, create decorations to hang in trees, weave natural materials or collect materials to create a sculpture or piece of artwork. You could create these outdoors around school and leave them in situ for other classes to find and enjoy. Record your students creativity by taking photos or videos of their work!

Be careful not to destroy habitats by taking too much from one place or harm wildlife by leaving plastics in the wild.



## You will need:

- Leaves, sticks, pinecones or other natural or found materials
- Camera to record your artwork

## Useful links:

Ephemeral art  
<https://bit.ly/3C3il0B>  
Andy Goldsworthy artwork  
<https://bit.ly/2Z6Xm3J>  
Zach Pine  
<https://bit.ly/3aUW3Yq>