

Westonbirt Art Activity Pack

A selection of activities for any season, anywhere!

Symbol Walk

What do you think these symbols could stand for? Look around the glade and find some things that could match them.



Now make a short journey that ends where you started. As you walk try to remember any sounds, shapes, patterns, smells, textures, or feelings. Draw the shape your route took below and add symbols along your route to represent the things you noticed.

Pictures in the trees

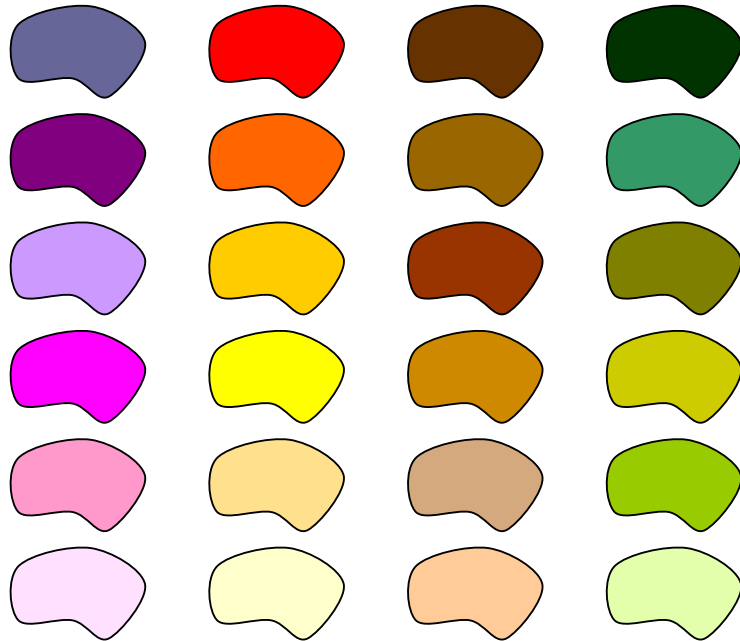
Choose your favourite tree in the area. Can you see its face? Some are tiny, others are huge! It may be winking or have both eyes open, and who knows if its happy, sad, grumpy or excited today!



Use your imagination as you look around you. What else can you see in the trees bark, branches, roots and leaves?

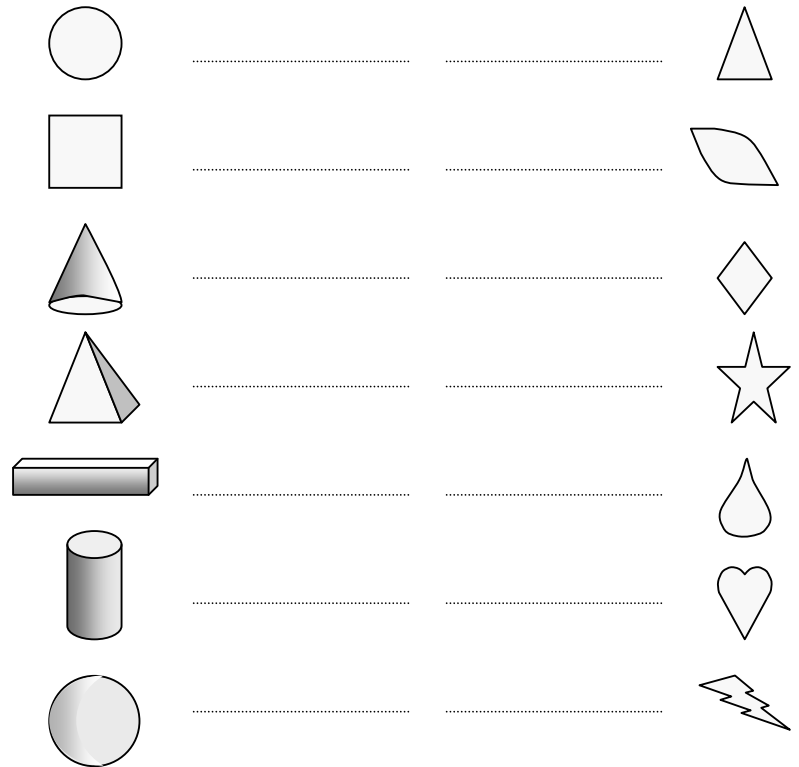
Woodland Rainbow

All of these colours can be found at the arboretum through the year. Which can you find today and how closely can you match each shade?



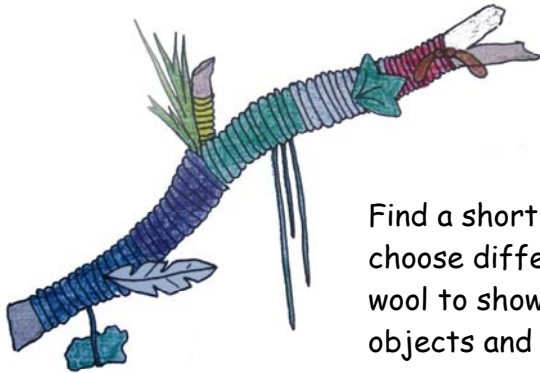
Shape search

What can you see that matches these shapes? You will have to look for the best fit as natural objects tend not to have many straight lines or regular faces.



Journey Stick

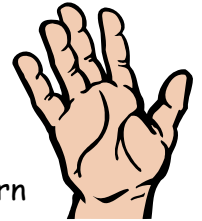
This is an idea that originates from the aboriginal people from Australia. When they went on long journeys, Australian Aborigines created a journey stick to help remind themselves about the things they had seen and experienced. It acted as a verbal map, enabling them to recount the story of their journey to others. It involved tying objects to a stick (that represented different experiences or parts of the journey) in the order that they found. It was an individual, unique and personal way of recording their experience.



Find a short stick and choose different coloured wool to show places, objects and feelings to create your own journey stick.

Your special tree!

Hold your palm in front of you and draw on the main palm lines. You could use a stick dipped in wet mud to draw with! Now look around you for the same pattern in the branches of a tree, the tiny twigs, bark, roots or other parts of the plant. This is your special tree.



Draw your unique palm pattern and the tree that you link with.



A woodland photo

Use the forefinger and thumbs from both of your hands to create a rectangle. You will need to turn one of your hands over! You now have a viewfinder to look through, like a camera. Using your viewfinder look for something that interests you. It could be a close-up or distance shot, you could look down, underneath, or up.

Draw your 'photo' in as much detail as possible down below.

Windows in the woods



Robert Holford created Westonbirt Arboretum by planting trees so that wherever you look there is something beautiful or interesting to see. One way to look at the arboretum he created is to find a natural window to peer through.

Find a natural window nearby and look through it.
Draw the window and the view you can see.

Back to back



Without showing anyone, pick up a natural object that has fallen on to the woodland floor (but not a berry or mushroom!). Find a partner, stand back to back with them and describe your object carefully without telling them what it is. Your partner will draw as you tell them about the shape, pattern, texture and size of your object. Now swap over.

When it is your turn draw your ideas below.

How well does your drawing match the object?

Behind your back



Look for a couple of natural objects that have different textures and have already fallen on to the woodland floor (but not a berry or mushroom!). Keep them hidden from everyone else.

Find a partner and ask them to stand in front of you with their back to you. Your partner needs to put their hands behind their back, palms open.

Pick one of your objects and stroke it along your partner's palm. Ask them to describe its texture - what it feels like. Try all of your objects with your partner before you swap over. Both of you should try not to repeat any texture words so that you can collect as many different ones as possible. Add them below.

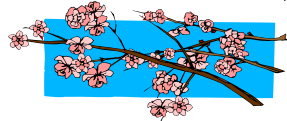


rough

furry

prickly

soft



Sky pictures

Choose a tree that you like and lie on the floor, underneath the branches. You could lie with your head or feet against the trunk.

Describe to a partner the lines and shapes you can see. What else do you notice?

Try lying underneath a short tree with low branches as well as a taller tree with much higher branches. You may notice different things and details.

Why not draw as carefully as you can your favourite part of the sky picture you see above you.



Under and over

Find an object or part of a plant that you can look up at from underneath and look down at from above. Draw both views below. What differences are there?

Under



Over

