

Natural sculpture

Suitable for Years 3-6, March to November

Using the arboretum for inspiration, students explore the idea of natural sculpture, inspired by artists such as Andy Goldsworthy. They will find out how the arboretum's creator used trees rather than paint to create a perfect picture. Students create their own environmental artwork in the arboretum using natural materials both individually and in groups. Please bring a camera if you would like to record your student's artwork.

Key Concepts

Pattern, colour, texture, 2D and 3D shape, sculpture, use of natural materials, environmental artists

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the programme, students should be able to:

- Identify colours, textures, shapes and patterns in natural materials
- Work together to create a group piece of artwork using natural materials
- Communicate reasons, thoughts, observations and feelings

Before you come

Q The trees are Westonbirt's natural sculptures. Will all of the tree sculptures be the same? Why?

Programme Outline

Learning Objectives	Activity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduces the arboretum as artistic inspiration • Introduces colour, shape and texture in the arboretum. 	<p>Natural Gallery An introduction to natural arts looking at the arboretum as though looking at an interesting picture, highlighting differences in colours, textures and shapes.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To learn skills and techniques of creating 3D artwork. • To gain hands-on experience using natural materials to create artwork. 	<p>3D Challenge A series of challenges to get ideas of how to sculpt 3D artwork in the woodland setting.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To observe use of natural materials, techniques and symbolism of famous environmental art. • To develop personal opinion and emotional perception of art. 	<p><i>Artist Inspiration</i> A group activity, discussing photos of artwork created by different environmental artists, such as Chris Drury and Andy Goldsworthy.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To discover natural materials of different shapes, colours and textures. 	<p><i>Gathering Walk</i> A discovery walk through our woodland glades collecting interesting natural materials from beneath trees from countries all over the world.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To apply knowledge about colour, shape, texture. • To gain hands-on experience using natural materials to create artwork. • To relate and discuss techniques and opinions. 	<p><i>Environmental Artwork</i> After briefly discussing the work of different environmental artists the children plan and create a piece of group art. The children will be challenged to make part of their work 3D or to use a tree as part of their composition. Time will be given to visit and respond to each group's work</p>

Self-guided trails

To complement this half-day programme, we recommend our [Art Activity Pack](#) and [Art Scavenger Hunt](#). This can be viewed at www.forestry.gov.uk/westonbirt-education

National Curriculum links

- Develop creativity and experimentation and use of different materials
- Improve the mastery of art and design techniques with a range of materials
- Learn about great artists and designers