

COLOURFUL CREATURES

STEP 1: COLLECT AND ORGANIZE ALL OF YOUR MATERIALS

Gather the following materials:



- Found natural objects, such as pebbles, rocks, sticks and pinecones
- Smock
- Water container
- Small paintbrushes
- Paper towels
- Acrylic* paints: red, orange, yellow, green, blue, white, black, brown
- Paint tray or paper palette

Once you have gathered all of your materials, clear off a workspace and put on your smock.

** NOTE: watercolour paints are not recommended for this project due to their transparency.*

STEP 2: DISCOVER YOUR NATURAL ELEMENT(S)



Explore your yard or a green space that your parent or guardian feels is safe and collect natural materials to paint on. Rocks, pebbles, sticks or pinecones are great examples of items you might wish to work with. It's best if they aren't too big or too small.



STEP 3: PREPARE THE FOUND OBJECTS FOR PAINTING

When you get home, clean your found object(s).

Hold them in your hands and examine the shape, texture and features of each object. Think about how you can transform your natural item into a representation of your favourite animal using painted shapes.



STEP 4: PAINT A BASE COLOUR



Think about the animal you want to represent. What is its main colour? Feel free to be creative! You don't have to replicate the colour if you envision something different.

Mix the paints to create your colour of choice and paint the entire object. You may want to place it on parchment or wax paper so it doesn't create a mess on or stick to the surface as it dries.

TIP: Start on one side of the paper and let it dry, before flipping it over to the other side and painting that surface as well. You can ask a parent or guardian to help you move the object onto a flat surface where it can safely dry.



STEP 5: PAINT YOUR PATTERNS



Does your animal have any signature colours, stripes or patterns? If so, you can add these fine details using a smaller brush.

Be sure to rinse and dry your brushes between colours to prevent accidental mixing.

STEP 6: PAINT YOUR DETAILS



Now that you have a base colour and pattern, try to imagine where your animal's head, face, ears, legs and tail could be. Paint these in carefully. When you're happy with your painting, set it aside to dry.

TIP: Use water to thin out your paints and use a small brush for fine details like faces.



CHALLENGE YOURSELF:

Collect a few different natural items, paint them and place them around your yard to create your own sculpture garden!

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