



Activity 9 21st Century Cave Paintings

The natural world has been an important part of the art and culture of people both past and present. This activity experiments with natural materials, and other drawing media to create modern 'cave paintings' or 'natural graffiti' based on the wildlife found on our doorsteps.

Curriculum area(s)	Resources needed	Preparatory activity
<p>Expressive arts Art & design.</p> <p>Science Planet Earth – biodiversity and interdependence.</p> <p>Technologies Craft, design, engineering and graphics contexts.</p>	<p>Materials Selection of card or canvas cut offs; lining paper; pieces of string; drawing charcoal; hand lenses</p> <p>Earth, twigs, stones, leaves and any other locally sourced natural materials</p> <p>Digital camera</p>	<p>Art Survey Look at the work of artists, from primitive cave paintings to more recent times. How has the natural world featured?</p>

Main activity description

Wildlife investigation

Spend time investigating the wildlife found in your school grounds or nearby outdoor natural area. Use hand lenses to magnify mini-beasts. Capture their shapes and special features with field sketches on card or with digital cameras.



New 'cave' paintings

Can you create new 'cave' paintings that reflect the natural world around you? Compare this to modern graffiti – is there a difference?

Outdoor 'cave' painting

Each pupil can experiment first creating their own temporary cave painting designs outside using chalk on a hard surfaced playground or outdoor blackboard (chalk can be washed off easily).

Offer a piece of canvas or card, and charcoal for drawing and suggest pupils experiment with making marks with earth, rubbed leaves/grass, stones etc on canvas or card.

These images can be strung up together or a collective 'cave painting' design can be created on a large roll of lining paper.

Extension activities	Sources & further inspiration
<p>Scratch Card Drawing with a sharp instrument onto stone has a history of thousands of years. Children can make their own 'scratch card' by laying down thick layers of different colours of wax crayon, then scratching an image through the layers. This and other techniques are shown in <i>Drawing Differently</i> www.campaignfordrawing.org/bigdraw/downloads/DrawingDifferently.pdf</p> <p>For further art work using natural pigments try the 'Bark rubbing' described in Activity 3 in this pack.</p>	

