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## Craftivism

TOPIC: ART

THEME: Trees and Climate Change

The writer Betsy Greer is known for coining the term 'craftivism' and defines it as:

*"A way at looking at life where voicing opinions through creativity makes your voice stronger, your compassion deeper and your quest for justice more infinite."*

### Introduction

Craftivism is becoming very popular – it involves using the slow and mindful art of crafting to convey an important issue. In this activity, we look at different ways of using arts and crafts to share a message about climate change.

### Activity 1: Bunting messages

Bunting is a great way of cheering up an outdoor space - why not use it to get a message across too? As a teacher, you can make traditional bunting out of fabric, paper or cardboard or whatever resources you have available.

- Try and source materials which are recycled or repurposed.
- You can use the traditional triangular bunting shape or any shape you like.
- Consider using something a bit bigger than normal to give you space to write your message.
- You can work as individuals, each having your own message, or create a line of bunting, each with a word or picture spelling out your message.
- Then string your bunting up where everyone can see it!



### Weblinks

[l.tl.org.uk](http://l.tl.org.uk) [youngtreechampions.org](http://youngtreechampions.org) [treecouncil.org.uk](http://treecouncil.org.uk)

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### Activity 2: Yarn bombing & tree wrapping

Yarn bombing is a way of creating art outside by covering features with knitting or crochet. It is an effective way to highlight features in your grounds that you want people to notice so you might use your yarn bombing to show how important your trees are. Trees are a good starting point for yarn bombing as you can create simple tubes to cover branches or the tree trunk, or you could even just make a scarf and tie that around instead.

If you don't want to knit or crochet you can follow the example of artists [Christo and Jeanne Claude](#) and use a range of fabrics to wrap items up instead. Look at their other work to wrap up buildings and landscapes as inspiration.

Whatever you use, you can draw people's attention to your subject by using bright colours and interesting patterns. Once you have their attention – who would not ask why you have wrapped up your trees? – then you can start to tell them about why trees are so important in respect to climate change to our health and clean air, to our wildlife etc.



### Weblinks

[lfl.org.uk](http://lfl.org.uk) [youngtreechampions.org](http://youngtreechampions.org) [treecouncil.org.uk](http://treecouncil.org.uk)

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