



Be a
#ForceForNature



Nature Up Close and Personal

TOPIC: ART

THEME: Trees and Nature

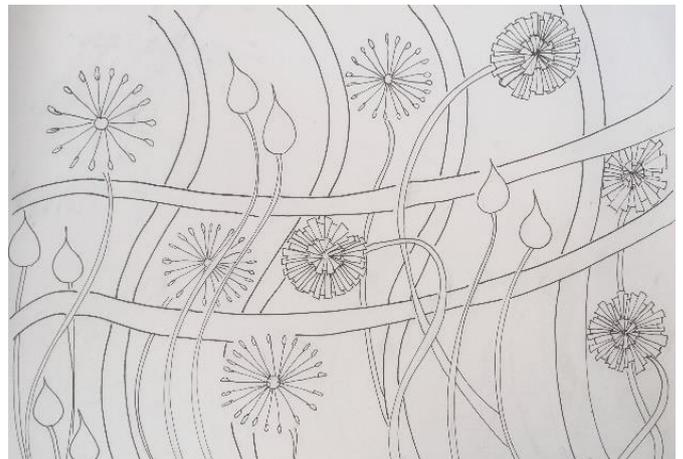
Art can be a fantastic way to get pupils to really study the details of nature – looking closely to help with identification or observing how plants and animals have adapted to their habitat. Sometimes that can be highlighted through making really accurate drawings or getting more creative through paintings or models of their subject - there so many ways you can use art to think about the natural world.

Activity 1: Habitats galore

Create your own colouring-in sheets based on different habitats in your school grounds. This might be an area of grass or meadow, trees, the growing area or a pond area.

Take photographs or make careful observational drawings of the plants and/or animals in your chosen habitat. Simplify the images and combine them together as line drawings on a page.

Once complete, you could scan these and print off copies for different classes to colour in, then display the results together creating repeated patterns, [Andy Warhol-style](#).



Weblinks

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Activity 2: Drawing upside-down

Another way that forces you to really look closely at your subject is to draw it upside-down. You'll be amazed at what you see looking at it in a different way. You might spot something you had never noticed before. Sometimes you create a better drawing when your subject is upside-down!

Here are two ways you can do an upside-down drawing:

Method one: take a photograph of the subject, invert it then draw it



Method two:

Why not turn yourself upside down! To do this have your back facing your object, put your paper on the ground in front of you, then bend over so that you look at the subject through your legs. Then draw what you see – you will produce an upside-down image. When you turn it the right way up, how does it look?



Weblinks

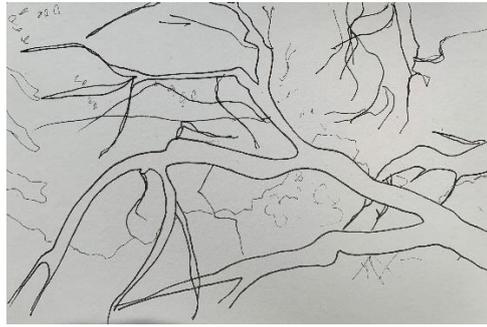
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Activity 3: Five pictures

In this activity, we are going to think about what makes a plant or animal unique – what visible features mean that you can identify it.

Choose your subject (plant or animal) and draw a picture of it. This is picture number one.

Use picture number one as your subject for picture number two. This might be a painting. Don't look back to the original subject – only look at the picture you are now using as your subject. Do this all the way through – do not look back at the original subject until your final picture is created.

Picture number two then becomes the subject of picture number three. Maybe picture number three is a collage.

Picture number three is the subject for picture number four. This time you might draw your subject using a computer programme.

Picture number four is the final subject for your picture number five. Use this to create your final image – using any medium you like.

Compare your first picture with your last one. What differences and similarities do you see? Would you still be able to tell what type of plant or animal it is? If you can, what is it about it that means you can identify it? If you can't, what has changed?



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