

ACTIVITY GUIDE

- HERB MONOPRINTS



Connecting creatively to the
landscape of the Wye Valley AONB and Forest of Dean

**FORESTERS'
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ARTSPACE
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wye valley **dyffryn gwy**
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty | Ardal o Harddwch Naturlol Eithriadol

HERB MONOPRINTS



Explore combinations of different herb leaves and their assortment of smells and shapes as you make an attractive multi-coloured monoprint using just acrylic paint and paper. You can of course use any type of leaf to create a stunning print. Final outcomes can be framed or used as greetings cards or bespoke wrapping paper etc.

Activity rating

Suitable for all abilities. Care will be needed to apply the painted leaves to the paper without smudging them.

Time required for activity

30-45 mins.

Preparation time

About 10 mins to set the materials out on a table but some herb leaves may need to be collected beforehand from the garden or a supermarket possibly.

Shopping list

- Mixture of herb or other interesting leaves
- Acrylic paints
- Brushes
- Pot of water and a palette
- Kitchen roll
- Assortment of coloured papers

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Step by step instructions

1. Select your coloured piece of paper and arrange your leaves in front of you. Have your paintbrush to hand and select the coloured paints you wish to use.
2. Place your leaf rough side up on a piece of kitchen roll. Dab your brush into the water and then into the paint to mix it slightly but do not make it too runny and carefully paint the back of your leaf.
3. Gently lift your leaf and place it paint side down onto your piece of paper being careful not to move it at this stage. Place a sheet of kitchen roll over the top of your leaf and gently dab and apply a little pressure so the paint on the leaf makes full contact with the paper.
4. Remove the kitchen roll and carefully lift the leaf off the paper revealing the print.
5. You can dry your print at this point before continuing to repeat the process that will eventually cover your sheet of paper.

Top Tips

- Use a hair dryer to speed up the drying time and reduce smudging of overlapping colours.
- Try to use the rough, textured side of the leaf to achieve the most interesting printed marks.
- Don't allow the paint to become too watery as it will affect the quality of your print.