

ACTIVITY GUIDE

- IMAGE TRANSFER TO WOODEN PANELS



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

IMAGE TRANSFER TO WOODEN PANELS



Image transfer is an easy and popular technique where a normal colour laser copy picture can be permanently transferred to another surface. It is like a traditional transfer but will need to be a laser copy in order for it to work (not an ink jet). Laser copiers are very common these days and can be found in most work places, libraries or in the high street. You will need to select some images and copy and paste them into a common program like Microsoft Word, Powerpoint, or just a JPEG image. You could also simply photocopy an image. Leaves, flowers and trees work well as a subject matter.

Activity rating

Suitable for everyone but some may benefit from help if they need to cut certain parts of the laser copy picture or use the hairdryer.

Preparation time

Approx. 15 minutes.

Images need to be selected beforehand and should not take too much time. Many (clear acrylic) transfer pastes can be bought in an art/craft shop or online easily and can be used for several sessions.

Time required for activity

Approx. 30 minutes.

Shopping List

- o Image transfer paste – any clear acrylic medium.
- o Colour laser copy pictures.
- o Brushes.
- o Scissors.
- o Some sort of wooden panel (old fence panels cut into small lengths, old chopping board, floor board etc.)
- o Hair dryer(s).
- o Small sponges and bowl of water.

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Step by step instructions

1. Take your chosen image and decide if you want to transfer all of it onto the wood or just a section. If you have a picture of some flowers but only wanted two or three, cut these out with the scissors. If the picture has a white background, just roughly cut around the picture to discard the white but don't worry about being too accurate.

2. The next stage is really easy but you must work on the correct side of the picture! Using the transfer paste, generously paste over the colour picture side and place it downwards onto the wood. Flatten it out with your fingers if necessary to achieve a good seal but don't brush over the back of it with the paste. The white side of the picture should be facing upwards and the colour image is now stuck facing downwards onto the board.

3. Using the hair dryer, heat the back of the image so that the paste completely hardens and is no longer a liquid. This may take 2-3 minutes.

4. Now the paste has been dried, take your wet sponge and wipe it over the image. You will be able to slightly see the original picture as the paper saturates with water. Wait about 30 seconds and then begin to rub the image with the tip of your finger. The wet paper should now begin to flake away and reveal more of the image. Keep wetting it so it doesn't scratch and repeat this process for several minutes until every paper fibre has been removed.

5. Let it dry once you feel you have removed enough paper. If it looks really misty and almost opaque when it is dry you can easily wet it again and repeat step 4.

6. If your image was just slightly misty then it's probably ready to have a final coat of image transfer paste brushed on top as this will act as a varnish and increase the clarity of the image.

7. The final artwork can be hung inside or outside as desired as it is completely waterproof.

Top tips!

- It is worth noting that any typography will need to be reversed when it is initially saved to a program file, else it will transfer backwards, but all other types of image will be fine.