

ACTIVITY GUIDE

- PAPER FOSSILS WITH PASTELS



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

PAPER FOSSILS WITH PASTELS



A great instant way to capture nature at its best with just three simple materials – pastels, cooking oil and leaves! Experiment with different colours and textures to explore and reveal the prints you can achieve from these natural forms.

Activity rating

Suitable for all. Assistance may be needed using the knife to scrape the pastel pigment.

Time required for activity

30-40 mins.

Preparation time

10 mins to set the table. Leaves will need to be sourced beforehand with a walk in the garden possibly or other outdoor space.

Shopping list

- Charcoal or chalk pastels
- 1 tsp cooking oil such as vegetable / sunflower / olive oil
- Bowl
- Paint brush
- Knife
- Photocopier paper
- Kitchen roll

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Step by step instructions

1. Select your leaf and place onto a piece of kitchen roll. Pour a tsp of cooking oil into a bowl. Using your paintbrush, dip into the oil and dab a little excess away on the kitchen roll before painting the rough side of the leaf that has the most texture.
2. Pick up the leaf and place oil side down onto the paper trying not to move this too much as it can smudge.
3. Pat and press gently so that the oil makes contact with paper to leave an impression.
4. Peel the leaf away carefully and place to one side.
5. Pick up your choice of pastel and scrape along the length of the pastel with your knife to create a gentle sprinkle of pigment over the oil impression on the paper.
6. Take a clean piece of kitchen roll and in a circular motion gently rub the sprinkled pastel into the oil impression. The oil will retain the pastel pigment and create a print. Explore a number of other colours and leaf shapes.

Top Tips

- Don't use too much oil so that it drips. Any excess can be blotted with the kitchen roll.
- Darker colours may stand out better.