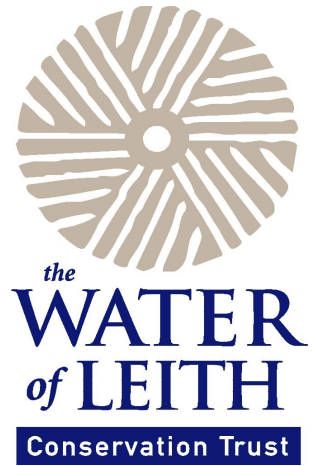


Wild at Art—Making An Artist's Book

Making an artist's book is a great way to record a trip to the Water of Leith, your daily exercise walk, a walk around your garden, or even a walk along your street. And every patch of grass, puddle or tree can be a source of inspiration to make great art.

We've suggested a few activities you can do outside as you walk along. Once you're happy with your book you can slip it onto a bookshelf and look forward to remembering your walk many years into the future. It will be a record of the time we all had to stay home and what we did to make life interesting.



What You Will Need: It's much easier to work outside if you have something to lean on. A clipboard is ideal but a big hardback book also works. Pack a bag with a pencil, rubber, crayons, a teaspoon, a little plastic pot, oil pastels, felt tips, tape and smaller pieces of paper which you can tape into the book, string, some double-sided tape and a glue stick.

Every Book Needs a Cover

The size, shape, and design of the cover is totally up to you. Artist's books can be as complex as origami fold outs or as simple as an A4 piece of paper folded in half. Here are a couple of styles but look at the artists listed on the right for more great ideas.

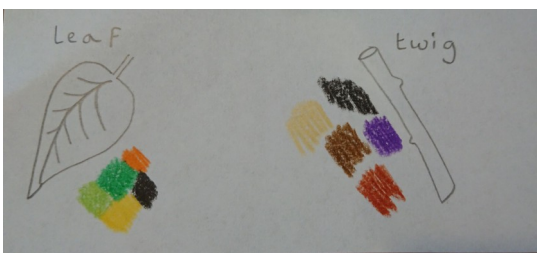


Find a long piece of card and bend it accordion-style to make your book.



Sometimes I like to make my cover before I go outside and sometimes I do it after I come back. You could decorate it using potato prints or collage or by drawing an image from your walk. However you decorate it, don't forget to give your book a title and an author!

Fold a piece of card and 2-3 sheets of slightly smaller paper in half and cut two holes along the fold, the same distance apart on each piece of paper. Line up the holes and thread through string, ribbon or wool. Tie loosely.



Page One—Painter's Palette

How many colours do you see in the natural world? Well, grass is green, water is blue and the earth is brown, right? But when you look a little closer you'll see that a fallen leaf might actually be lime green with tiny

dark brown spots, leaf veins of yellow and perhaps a touch of bright red at the tip. On your first page draw a quick sketch of what you are studying and then draw all the colours that you can see next to it on the page.

Looking for Inspiration?

There are some fabulous Scottish artists who make artist's books and a lot of them take their inspiration from the natural world, just like we are doing.

See how Susie Wilson weaves in thread through her books like tiny plant roots at <http://www.susiewilson.org/books.html>

Elaine Fullerton's books are like poems and made from amazing shapes. <https://elainefullertongallery.wordpress.com/gallery/>

Liza Green has fabulous accordion style books <https://elainefullertongallery.wordpress.com/gallery/>

Curricular Links to the Curriculum for Excellence

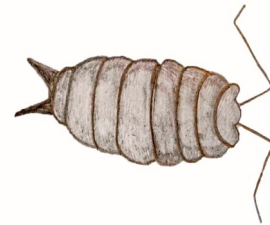
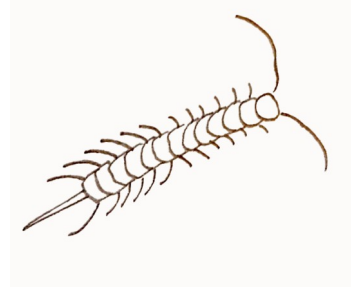
I can use exploration and imagination to solve design problems related to real-life situations. (EX 1-06a)

I can create and present work that shows developing skills in using the visual elements and concepts. (EX A 2-03a)

Within and beyond my place of learning I am enjoying daily opportunities to participate in physical activities and sport, making use of available indoor and outdoor space. (HWB 1-25a)

Pages 2-3 Observational Drawing

One of our very favourite activities at the Water of Leith is observational drawing, usually drawing the amazing freshwater invertebrates (creatures *without* backbones) living in the river. But you don't need a river to find examples of incredible wildlife. Look under stones or flowerpots and see if you can gently pick up a creature like a woodlouse (a teaspoon is great for this), and put it in a little container like a white yoghurt pot. Find yourself a comfortable spot to sit down and draw the creature as close as possible to what you see. It's a bit tricky when it's moving around so help yourself by drawing the biggest part of the body first. Count the number of legs that you see and look very carefully. Often wild creatures are missing some of their legs or antennae due to a nasty encounter with a predator so make sure you draw exactly what you see.



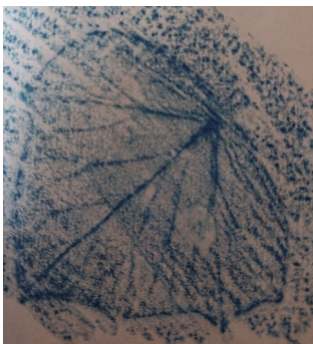
Pages 4-5 Leaf Prints

Leaf prints are a beautiful way to show you really clearly the veins of the leaf. The leaf veins do a really important job as they transport water, minerals, and food energy through the leaf and on to the rest of the plant. They're actually a lot like our veins which transport blood around our body. This is how to make a great leaf print.

Take a piece of paper and tape it to the page on one side.

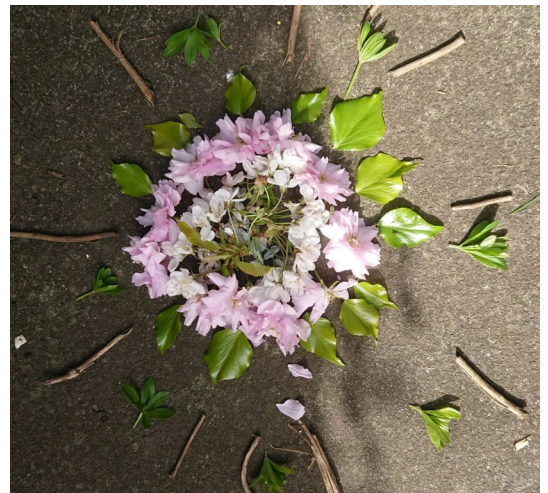
Slide a dry leaf with the underside looking up under the attached sheet.

Leaning against a clipboard or book use a crayon (or coloured pencil) to gently rub over where the leaf is and watch the shape of the leaf emerge. Tip: I find this works best when I use the side of a crayon or my pencil at a low angle.



Pages 6-7 Environmental Art

Environmental art is art made in nature. It often doesn't last long. It might be washed away by the tide, blown away by the wind or ravaged by a playful dog. We can record it by taking a photo, by drawing it, and by remembering it. I like to start by putting a circle of string down on the ground to create a frame and to remind people around me not to step in my great work of art. Collect sticks and petals (*Don't take too much from any one plant and only take from plants which are plentiful*). Create a sculpture or a mandala like this one in the photograph. Give it a title. I called mine 'Spring in the Garden.' You could take a photo, print out the photo and put that in your book. Or you could draw pictures of your mandala in your book which would also be lovely.



Page 8 Sticky Pictures

If you have some double sided tape or carpet tape attach a strip of it to the page. If you don't have either of these then you can run a strip of glue along the back page but be aware that it will take a little longer for the objects to attach (you might want to collect things outside and bring them indoors). Attach **dry** objects which will help you to remember this wonderful walk. They might be sticks, petals, dried seed heads. What kind of picture can you make with them?

