

ART FORM

Visual Arts

LEARNING AREA

The Arts

SUBJECT

Art & Design

TARGET GROUP

Key Stage 1
(Years 1 – 3)

MATERIALS

Willow Withies
Newspaper
Masking Tape
Ready Mix Paint
PVA
Paintbrushes
Scissors (for teachers' and assistants' use)

Children should wear old T-shirts or aprons for painting.

SPACE

Classroom

PREPARATION

See Teacher's Tips.

DURATION

In a basic 2 hour session a good individual or medium group animal can be made and fully covered in 'skin'.

In a second 2 hour session the animal can be painted and have details like hair applied.

ARTIST'S INTRODUCTION

Using willow withies, newspaper and masking tape and finishing with ready mix paint, the children work towards a finished sculpture of a real or mythical animal. This workshop was developed for work with a range of groups (children and also adults) and has been done in a range of educational and community settings. It can be as simple or complicated as you wish to make it. In 2004, 12 primary schools taking part in Young at Art's affiliated schools programme School Friends undertook this workshop in their classrooms with the artist. The results were stunning. Schools went on to exhibit the work, develop group pieces and use the techniques in class with the teacher for a range of activities, including decorating the classroom and canteen for Christmas.

The children can produce individual pieces or form groups to make medium and large sculptures. All types of animals and mythical creatures can be made using this technique, offering scope for exploring The World Around Us.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Pupils will have the opportunities to develop:

- Managing information – listening to instructions
- Working independently – making decisions, self management
- Problem solving – focus on task to achieve learning objectives e.g. structure and balance of animal
- Being creative – creating an animal from imaginative ideas

INSTRUCTIONS

Each child is given 3 pre cut withies. Two of the withies are broken in half, but not separated, and taped into a V shape.

The V shapes are turned upright to form the front and back legs and the third withie is taped across to form a backbone.

This basic skeleton is then shaped to make the chosen animal. If a horse or cow the front of the backbone is bent upward to form a neck and the back down to form a tail.

Now crunched up newspaper is taped to the skeleton to make a head and body and the whole animal is given a skin of masking tape.

Details such as hair horns and ears are now added. For mythical animals or dinosaurs the wings and longer tails are added with withies making the skeleton and newspaper with masking tape making up the body and skin.

The final stage is painting. Tables can be prepared by covering with paper or plastic sheeting to ease cleaning up and children should wear t-shirts or other coverings to protect school uniforms. For most sessions ready mix paint mixed with washable PVA is used as the painting medium. For special outcomes good quality acrylic paint can be used to give a better more durable finish.

A specially prepared drying area with plastic sheeting for floor protection is a good idea to enable cleanup of the classroom.

TEACHER'S TIPS

Teachers and helpers only use scissors and do not cut straight through withies, just score them all round then they will snap cleanly. Some children have difficulty tearing masking tape, it is a good idea to spend a bit of time showing how to tear it properly.

Watch who is having problems and if they can't improve provide them with lots of torn bits of tape lightly attached to the table or chair.

LINKS TO OTHER LEARNING AREAS

- Science and technology – shape and structure of animals, balance
- Language and literacy – discussion about animal choice, size, colour, shape etc
- The World Around Us – linking animal to the environment, history, landscape etc

FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS

A few text books relating to the animals being made can help enhance the contours, look and colour schemes used. It should be borne in mind that this technique can be used to make nearly anything from animals to airplanes and people to vehicles. Other examples, for instance dinosaurs and airplanes can be found on Colin McGookin's website www.colinmcgookin.com

Don't forget to send feedback to toolbox@youngart.co.uk

www.youngart.co.uk/toolbox