

For adults and children in the garden or outdoor space – supervision essential

Ephemeral art holiday project

Natural England wants to give a million children the chance to discover the outdoors. The natural world is a fascinating place to explore and our natural habitats together with the creatures and plants that live there can provide endless sources of fun. From your own back yard to the wilds of our national nature reserves, now is the time to make the most of the outdoors and go wild!

Together with Fiona Danks and Jo Schofield (www.goingwild.net), authors of Nature's Playground, Go Wild and Make it Wild (www.franceslincoln.com), we've produced these fantastic activity sheets to give you plenty of ideas of what you can get up to, what are you waiting for?



Encourage children and families to discover wild places in new ways over the summer holidays. Whether they are in the garden, at the park or away on holiday, they can have a go at making wild ephemeral art.

This is all about using natural materials creatively within their natural surroundings, and then allowing them to return to nature. Can they make a sculpture, a pattern, or a picture only using loose natural materials? This is a great project for families to work on together. Encourage them to take photographs of their creations for a collective display of wild ephemeral art projects.

What you need

- Loose natural materials
- Digital camera
- Lots of imagination!

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A few ideas to get you started...

At the beach

Every beach has something special to use for ephemeral art – sand, stones, shells, rocks, seaweed, water, and of course the relentless tide. Work below the tide line has to be done quickly; you may not even have time to complete your masterpiece as the sea approaches!

This snake was made by moulding a shape in the sand, and then decorating it with shells to bring it alive. Or use shells to make pictures and patterns, almost like a mosaic on the sand. Use stones and pebbles to make sculptures and castles as well as pictures such as this stone man. Or how about using natural materials to make story pictures, such as this stone lion in his frame?



In the woods

Search for loose natural materials to make pictures and patterns. Use cones, sticks, twigs and leaves to make creatures such as a bird, a dragon or a fox. Lay sticks on the ground in a rectangular shape and make your own magic carpet, decorated with natural materials in intricate designs and patterns; jump on board and fly off for some imaginary adventures! Or use sticks to make a smaller picture frame; make a picture, perhaps illustrating something special that happened on your holiday.

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Safety tips

- Watch out for the tide when doing ephemeral art at the beach.
- Wash hands after working with natural materials.