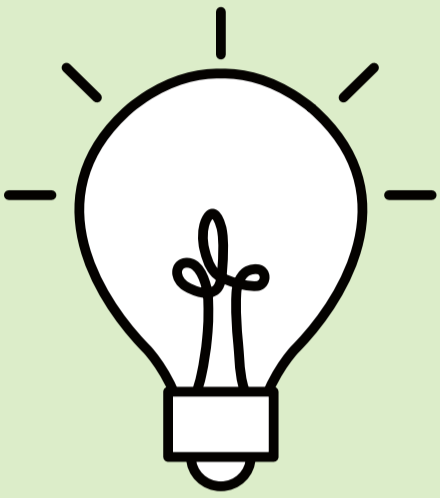


Greenhillock at Home

SPRING SCENES



WHAT YOU NEED

Anything! A bucket and your imagination.

This activity is based on 'land' or 'environmental' art. It uses materials which occur in the natural world, typically things like leaves, sticks and stones but can also be more abstract such as footprints.

In case you don't have access to the outdoors right now we've also included options* which use typical household crafty materials. Check out our photo album for inspiration to help you get started.

STEP 1

Take a walk

What attracts your attention? What colours can you see? We are going to make something which reflects how you are inspired by Spring.

Grab your bucket and start collecting. It's ok to use anything which has fallen off a tree or plant. Be selective when picking leaves and flowers.

As a rule of thumb we don't pick flowers until May, as earlier in the year flowers like dandelions provide valuable food for bees. Once they become abundant it's fine to pick a few for your art work.



STEP 2

Decide between 2D or 3D

Are you going to work flat on the ground or a piece of paper or will you pile materials up to make a sculpture? Materials such as sticks and pine cones lend themselves to 3D pieces but there are no rules and you can do a combination of both.

Experiment, have fun and remember if it falls down or blows away you can easily start again. The most important thing is to enjoy the process.



Inside Options

If you can't work outside maybe because it's too rainy or windy, can you collect materials to bring home and arrange inside?

If you can't get out to forage at all you can still do all the steps inside. Search about the house for outdoor imagery. Look in magazines for pictures which make you think of Spring. Do you have a wrapping paper draw or a stash of old calendars or greeting cards you can use. Creating a collage is a simple way to use these materials or you could go 3D and make a scene inspired by nature.

STEP 3

Choose your materials

What you can make will be influenced by what you can gather. Unlike in Autumn, Spring leaves can be similar in colour. If you want contrast look for differences in shape and texture, curly, spiky, rough or shiny. Look for patterns which occur in nature, can you use or recreate them in your art work?

Take a moment to look at something in detail, the veins on the underside of a leaf or the patterns in a tree's bark.

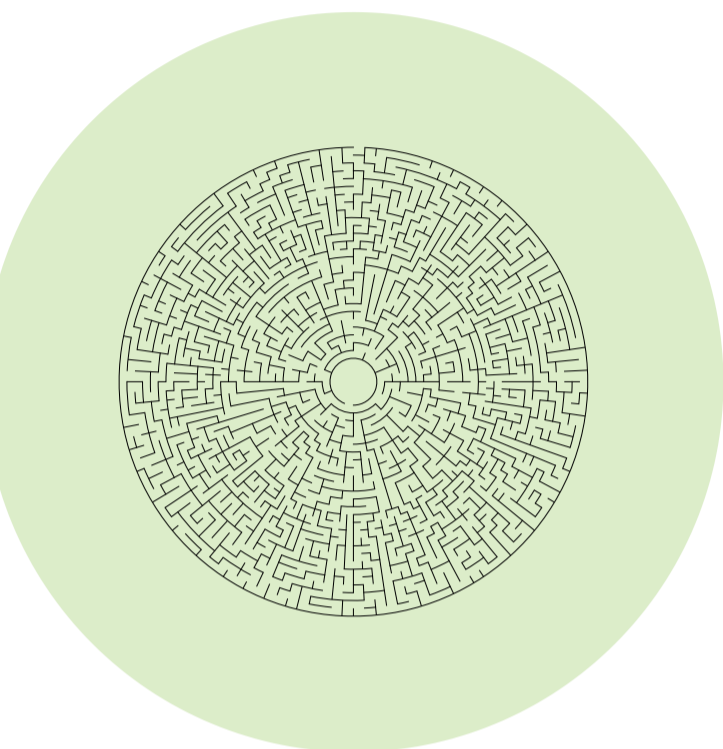


STEP 4

Get making

There are no rules. You might choose to recreate a scene you can actually see in your house, garden or park. You might want to make an image of something you can hear or your favourite animal.

Your art work doesn't have to be 'of' a real thing, it can be more abstract, a pleasing way of arranging your materials according to their colour, shape or texture. Its all about what you choose to make.



STEP 5

Make a record

Most art made from natural materials is temporary as it is not fixed together in any way. Some artists even choose to work with ice and so their finished pieces last only a few hours. For this reason its great to make a record of your finished piece so you can remember it. The easiest way is to snap a picture (or three) but you could also make a short film of your piece. Add a bit of yourself talking to camera. What inspired your creation, what did you enjoy about making it? Did anything go wrong?

You could also give you piece a title like they do in galleries. Consider what you want to tell people with the name you choose. It could be a simple explanation of what you have made, the materials you used or a more complex, abstract title.



WHAT NEXT

If you enjoyed working in 3D consider doing it again! Why not try to create a 3D model or scene, sometimes called a diorama. You can use an old shoe or cereal box as the frame. Find a fabulous picture, piece of wrapping paper or magazine cutting to be the back drop and stick it inside the box. Add natural materials such as leaves or soil for the floor. Introduce colourful birds and beasties, trees or maybe even a pond.

Once your Diorama is finished you could invent some characters who live there. What do they look like? What do they get up to each day? Why not try writing a short story about your Spring Scene?

We would love to see your finished creations and hear your stories. Please ask to have pictures posted to our Facebook page or email kate@greenglamping.co.uk.