

Charcoal Paint

Become an artist, but with natural paint, paint brush and the great outdoors as the canvas.

Use our 'Fire Lighting, at Home' activity sheet, in version 1, to gather part burnt wood and charcoal together. Then discover a simpler, but similar, paint that was used in the stone age which contained similar ingredients. Cave paintings have been found to date back to 40,000 years ago during the last ice age.

Activity:

1. Use the rock to grind off black powder from the charcoal and onto a plate, cup or flat surface.
2. Add a little vegetable oil and water mixing together until it has the consistency of a thick paint.
3. Make a paintbrush. Take a stick about the width of a thumb and snap to the desired length. Wind an elastic band around the end so it is secure, but not too tight. Slide in any natural item to try - leaves, grass, feather.
4. Now paint away! It is natural and washes away, but bear in mind it can stick around for a while. Try a face on a tree, directions for someone to follow, cave paintings on stone or even as face paint.

Notes:

Activated charcoal is used for medical uses such as water filtration, teeth whitening, diarrhea and absorbing gases. Formed by superheating charcoal in the presence of a gas.

For firelighting see the home activity sheet

https://www.aretecentre.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/fire-lighting_at-home.pdf

Environmental Awareness

*Appreciate and draw inspiration from the environment
Experience 'awe and wonder'*

Time:
20 min+

Space:
Any Outdoor Space

Equipment:
Charcoal, Veg Oil, Small Rock. Paint brush or Stick, Natural Product & Elastic Band

