



Forest Colour Cloths



For Teachers

Age: 4 - 11 year olds ⌚ Minimum time needed: 1 hour

Curriculum links:

History

- Changes in Britain from the Stone Age to the Iron Age.

Art

- Produce creative work, exploring their ideas and record their experiences.

Learn about natural dyes and how Stone Age people dyed materials for clothing. Make natural dyes to decorate cloth with.

Get Ready

- Printouts of pictures of Stone Age shelters and clothes made from animal skins and dyed cloth
- Plain material (cotton, linen or muslin) cut into strips/triangles - 1 per child
- Hammers
- Natural resources collected from the forest such as flowers, leaves and berries (collecting can be part of the activity)



Stoneage Shelter

UK Woodland Plants Natural Fabric Dye Guide

| | | |
|--|---|-----------------------------------|
|  |  | Nettles Green |
|  |  | Blackberries Purple |
|  |  | Birch Bark Beige / Pink |
|  |  | Yarrow Flowers Yellow |
|  |  | Alder Bark Golden Brown |

Get Set

Tell the group about:

- People from the Stone Age are thought to be the first people who wore clothes from woven cloth coloured with natural dyes. **Share pictures.**
- Natural dyes can still be used today. Nettles are used to make a green dye and walnut husks to make brown dyes.



Discuss: What you might use to make natural dyes?



Hint: Flowers, bark, seeds, leaves, clay soils

Go

- Hunt for items to use to make dyes with e.g. leaves and berries.
- Do not eat anything and wash hands after handling the items.
- Decorate the cloth strips by:
 - rubbing or using the hammer to squash the found forest items on to the cloth
 - mashing them with water, and using sticks to draw patterns or dipping the cloth into the mix.



Remember!
Don't eat anything...



Discuss: What worked well? What would they do differently next time?



Go Beyond

Decorate triangles of cloth and attach them to a ribbon to create Stone Age inspired bunting. Or decorate larger pieces and use them to make shelters in the forest.

Explore where natural cloth and material comes from e.g. wool, cotton, tartan and how it protects us from the natural elements.

