



Art & Design  
Age 2+

# Charcoal paint

- Creative play
- Mark making

## Overview

- Use this creative play activity to mark make with natural paint.

## Learning outcomes

- Develop fine and gross motor skills
- To assist letter formation and symbol recognition

## Equipment

- Charcoal (the remnants of a burnt piece of wood from a fire)
- Vegetable oil
- A flat surface or a plastic plate
- Small handheld rock for grinding
- Old paintbrush (or make one from a stick and available grass, feathers or leaves)
- Soap and water for washing up after

## Activity

1. Grind up a small lump of charcoal into a fine powder using a rock.
2. Add a splash of vegetable oil and combine with the powder to create an oil paint consistency.
3. Using your paintbrush, attempt to mark make on a suitable surface (bearing in mind the designs might stick around a while!).

## Potential ways to show learning

1. Developing fine and gross motor skills through mark making.
2. Experiment with different marks such as giving a tree a face.
3. Link to history and explore different cave markings and paintings.
4. Use your creation as fun face paint to do role play or historical re-enactment.
5. Using charcoal to form letters or numbers and link to curriculum areas.



Learning  
through  
Landscapes

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