



Art & Design  
All ages

# Tree faces

- Natural sculptures



Learning  
through  
Landscapes

## Overview

This hands-on activity encourages the use of a variety of materials for natural sculpture and will improve creativity and motor skills.

## Resources

- Several mature trees
- Clay
- Natural materials such as leaves, twigs and seeds

## Activity

1. Walk around the school grounds examining the shapes and textures of the bark on the trees. Look at how natural features – such as knots, burrs and scars – naturally suggest facial features.
2. Give children a lump of clay each and access to natural materials.
3. Let pupils choose the tree they want to work on – if possible, incorporating the tree bark’s natural features.
4. When all the groups have finished, allow everyone to look at each other’s work.
5. See the table opposite for ideas to use in conjunction with this activity to bridge the gap between the indoors and the outdoors for your pupils.

## Suggested outcomes for learning and play

We understand you will tailor this activity to the learning needs of your pupils. Here are some of the learning outcomes and extension ideas that other practitioners have used this lesson idea to reach:

- To use clay to create a natural sculpture
- To create and describe a character for a story

Here are some ideas that other educators have used in conjunction with this activity to bridge the gap between the indoors and the outdoors for their pupils.

Subject	Topic	Ideas for further exploration
Literacy and language	Descriptive writing	Write descriptive sentences or a character profile
	Fiction writing	Create characters and use them in a story
History	Historical characters	Explore gargoyles and their use in historical architecture
Computing	Media	Take photos of the faces and use them to make videos
Art history	Traditional sculptures	Research the history of the Green Man character and its meaning in different cultures

If you would like to develop your outdoor learning knowledge and skills, take a look at our range of training courses: [itl.org.uk/outdoor-learning-training](https://www.itl.org.uk/outdoor-learning-training)