



At Home: How to make nature brushes & monoprints ↪

In this activity sheet you will learn how to make your own unique works of art using materials found around your home. **Download** and **print** this activity to do with family and friends.



First we are going to discuss a few art terms...

Process Art:

These activities are a form of process art. Process art is an art term whereby the process of making the artwork is an important aspect of the completed work. The materials, processes used, and result are all important components to the artwork.

What is a monoprint?

A monoprint is a form of printmaking where the image can only be made once. This is unlike most printmaking methods which allows for multiple originals.

What is a nature brush?

A paint brush made from nature! This could be grass, shrubs, sticks and the list goes on!

Let's get started! What will you need?

- Access to a garden or safe outdoors area.
- Paper
- Paint, see instructions on how to make your own paint...
- A container
- Elastic/rubber bands
- A sponge
- Scissors



Create your own paint. ↻

In this activity you have an option to make your own paint. If you do not have access to these materials, regular acrylic paint will be fine.

Clay Slip: Make your own paint from clay.

What you will need:

- Air dry clay – terracotta or white. You can buy in 1kg blocks
- Water
- A fork
- A container (can use tupperware, check with an adult first)

Step 1: Cut your block of clay in half

Step 2: Place block in container and add water, start with a cup

Step 3: Mush the clay and water with your fork

Step 4: Keep mushing and adding water to make your paint

Step 5: Develop a smooth consistency, you can make gloopy or runny paint. It is up to you! To make gloopy paint add less water, to make runny paint add more water.

Your clay slip is now ready to use.

Keep this in a sealed container in the fridge.

Keep clay for no longer than one week.

Make paint from flour.

What you will need:

- 1 pinch of salt
- 1 cup of flour
- Mixing bowl or container
- 1 cup of cold water
- Food colouring
- A container for the flour paint (can use tupperware, check with an adult first)

Step 1: Blend flour and salt together in a large bowl.

Step 2: Add in cold water and mix until smooth

Step 3: Add food colouring and mix. Note you can use vegetables as food colouring, for example beetroot juice. You can make as many colours as you like!

Step 4: Pour paint into container that can be sealed.

Step 5: Shake before use.

Your paint is now ready to use.

Keep this in a sealed container in the fridge.

Keep paint for no longer than one week.

! **FUN TIP** Add more flour sand to your paint for added texture

✂️ Make your own Nature Brush ↻

Step 1: Now your paint is ready, safely using a pair of scissors head outside to source your materials. First, we are going to gather materials to make Nature Brushes.

Nature brushes can be made with ANYTHING. For example: Grass, dry or green. Grass is a great material to use when making bush brushes. Grass is designed to replenish and is unharmed when cut. You may use any type of foliage from the ground – fallen branches or grass. Use anything you like as long as you are not harming a plant. Think about what you wish to do when using the brush. Do you want to dab with a hard brush? Do you want to swirl with a soft brush?

Step 2: Once your materials have been gathered it's time to bind them together to make a brush. Using a rubber/elastic band, tie the grass bunch together in a loop then snip the loop in half and snip the end of the brush to even out the shape.





Let's make some art! ↻

Now we have our paint + nature brushes ready it is time to find some more foliage to use for our printing. Look for small branches, leaves, even more grass for this activity.

What you will need:

- Foliage, preferably fallen to the ground
- Nature brush
- Paper – any size
- Container with paint
- Rectangle container to pour paint into, big enough to dab branch/foliage into
- Sponge

Step 1: Find some branches to use for your print making. In this activity we used wattle, this was found on the ground fallen from the tree. You can use anything you wish as long as you are not harming a plant.



Step 2: Pour desired amount of paint into the container. We have used clay slips here and poured white into the larger pot and yellow into the smaller pot. Place branch/fallen foliage into the paint, cover the branch all over with your paint.



Step 3: There are many ways you can make an impression of the foliage you have collected. Try a few options and experiment. The method used here was placing the foliage on a large piece of paper, then placing a small piece over the top. You end up with two prints!



Step 4: Once you have experimented with your prints, it is time to experiment with your nature brushes! On the same page or a new page, try dabbing, swirling, scratching, and blobbing. Use new colours and have fun!

