Art and Drama

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Last Chance to Paint

Background:

While everyone may not get the chance to visit rainforests, you can learn how to bring the vibrant sights and sounds of these habitats and ecosystems to life by creating your own personal connection with your subject and the people, plants and animals that live in the rainforests of Brazil and Borneo.

Useful materials:

- Paper and coloured card
- Colouring pencils or crayons
- Soft pencil: 4B-6B
- Charcoal
- Pastels
- Coloured paints
- Mixing pot or pallet
- Fine paint brushes.

Curriculum links:

Art and design
- Improve your mastery of art and design techniques, including drawing, painting and sculpture with a range of materials.

SMSC
- Encourage respect for other people.

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Activity 1:

Yawanawá face painting (Kênê)

Nixiwaka Yawanawá lives in the Brazilian Amazon. Last year, Cornish artist John Dyer went to visit his tribe to learn about the rainforest, their connection to the natural world and how art features in tribal life:

“We make paint out of annatto seeds and the jenipapo plant.

These make red and black paints that we use to paint our faces and our bodies… it can stay on for three weeks. The patterns we paint are inspired by animals.”

Get stuck in:

Use the worksheet to experiment with face painting designs using black and red.
Creating gradients with paint

- Choose any colour paint, and white paint
- Start with a blob of white paint on your palette
- Paint a strip of white on your paper
- Add a small amount of the other colour to the white
- Paint another strip
- Continue until the full range of the colour is shown on your page.

Hints and tips for colour mixing

- Make sure your water is clean – regularly change the water
- Check that your brush is clean before you mix colours
- Shocking pink, turquoise blue and lemon yellow provide a wider colour mix than the classic primary colours, red, blue and yellow
- Always mix the colour into the white, never add white to the colour.
Mark marking

- You can create texture within your painting or drawing by adding different marks to your paper
- You can also show light and dark through mark making – the more marks in one area, the darker it will look
- You could use dots, lines, shapes, crosshatching or any combination of these to develop texture and tone.

Exploring tone further

- Using your material of choice (e.g., charcoal, pencil or crayon) explore the range of tones it can create
- Using different amounts of pressure.
Activity 3:

Try painting or drawing people in John’s style

Top tips:

• Use a soft pencil: 4B-6B

• Use your body, or a brother or sister, to see where the main joints are (elbows and knees)
  • This will help construct your body and make it more realistic and in proportion

• For the extra features eg, hair and clothing, art materials such as paint, coloured pencils or pastels can be used

• Follow the steps on the next slide to draw a member of the Yawanawá tribe.
Step-by-step guide:

**Step 1:**
1. Decide on body position: standing, sitting, waving etc.
2. Draw the head as an oval.
3. Draw a vertical line of symmetry through the head and through where the body will be. Use a ruler as required.
4. Draw the shoulders, arms and upper body. See top tips!

**Step 2:**
1. Add the legs.
2. Bend the legs slightly at the knees.

**Step 3:**
1. Add the hair style of your choice.

**Step 4:**
1. Add a ceremonial grass skirt, or coloured shorts and a t-shirt.
2. Add a head dress of your design and choosing.
3. Remove any extra pencil markings such as the central line.

*Extra*
Add a body colour or body paint markings.
Making the best of limited resources – what can you do with just two materials?

- The Penan are a hunter-gatherer, nomadic people from Sarawak, a state in Malaysian Borneo. They have few possessions, carrying what they do have in backpacks made of palm leaf (rattan).
- The forest provides them with materials to build their homes, holds the ancient paths of their ancestors, and provides their food and water.
- However, the rainforest is disappearing – Borneo lost 12% of its forest cover between 2000 and 2010 alone.

Follow the steps on the next slide to draw a member of the Penan tribe.
Step-by-step guide:

Step 1:
- Very dark marks can be used for the hair of the Penan girl.
- Leave areas of paper white to create the shine in her hair and develop texture with your mark making or brush strokes.

Step 2:
- Look carefully at the range of very subtle tones on the girl's face and gently shade those areas.

Step 3:
- The area on her neck is slightly darker than her face, which adds depth.

Step 4:
- Deep textures and tones in the background give the feeling of the light and dark of the rainforest.
- Notice how by adding the dark background she leaps off the page and creates a very strong image.
Try painting or drawing a rainforest plant in John’s style

- Banana plants – what do you think, are they a ‘palm tree’ or a herb?
- They are in fact a herb! Their trunks are made of lots of sheets of overlapping leaves.

Top tips:
- Look carefully at the shape and colours of the plant you are going to paint
- Green is a good starting colour
- Use yellow paint for highlights
- Use blue paint to add some shadow
- Don’t worry too much about details
- Follow the steps on the next slide to paint a banana palm.
Step-by-step guide:

**Step 1:**
1. Look at the basic shape of your plant.
2. Paint it in a similar colour to what you can see in the image.

**Step 2:**
1. Start adding shape detail eg, leaves.
2. Block this in colour.

**Step 3:**
1. Think about the sun shining on the plant.
2. Add some highlights and shadows (optional).

**Step 4:**
1. Add any fruits or flowers to your plant if they have them.

**Extra:**
If your paint has dried, go over any highlighted sections to bring out the colour.
Activity 3 continued:

Painting an orangutan in its natural habitat

- The name orangutan comes from the Malay and Indonesian words orang, meaning person, and hutan, meaning forest – person of the forest
- They only live in the rainforests of Borneo and Sumatra.

Top tips:
- You will be painting over a drawn outline, so feel free to make many marks to slowly mould your outline to the shape you want
- Use a good brush and of the right size so you can control your marks and create hair and texture
- Follow the steps on the next two slides to paint your orangutan.
Step-by-step guide:

**Step 1:**
- Using a pencil or pastel, draw the outline of the orangutan and the two trees, the one it is sitting on and the one it is holding.
- You can use photographs of orangutans you have searched for to base this exercise on, if you prefer.
- When drawing the body, gently sketch out the head, add the round body and then work on the arms and legs.

**Step 2:**
- Once you are happy with your sketch drawing, mix a deep brown paint for shade and a bright orange for light and start to paint on the areas of light and shade.
- You can mix an orange from yellow and then add a small quantity of red. To create a brown, you can mix yellow with a small amount of red and then add a small quantity of blue.
- Allow your brush to become slightly dry and then add some dry brush strokes to add the hair of the orangutan.
**Step 3:**

- Paint the orangutan's face a deep brown
- You might want to let it dry at this stage or, using wet on wet paint, use a very pale cream/white colour to add the two eyes and nose/mouth area as circular shapes.

**Step 4:**

- In the larger circle, the nose and the mouth can be added
- Add the dark pupils to the orangutan and with a tiny touch of white, you can add a reflection to the eyes to add life
- Finally, if you have time, add some forest leaves in the background and make sure your trees have been painted in a pale colour.

*How do you feel about orangutans now you have painted one?*
Activity 3 continued:

Try your hand at painting or drawing a pair of macaw’s in John’s style

- Macaws can live for up to 60 years, in flocks of 10-30 individuals
- There are 18 different species of macaw.

Top tips:
- Feel free to rotate your page while you’re drawing or painting to make sure your hand isn’t at an awkward angle or smudging your work
- You can use another piece of paper over your work as a mask to prevent smudging
- Wait for the paint to dry slightly before adding other colours
- Use at least two tones of your animals main colour eg, red and a lighter red, as this adds light and shade
- Follow the steps on the next slide to paint your parrot.
Step-by-step guide:

**Step 1:**
1. Look at an image of your animal.
2. See the overall shape.
3. Using a thin brush and pale paint, or a soft pencil, establish the main shape of your animal.

**Step 2:**
1. Work with the main colour (varying tones) of your animal to fill in the shape.
2. Use your outline as a rough guide. Don’t worry if you go over it.

**Step 3:**
1. Using the other colours found on the animal, start to add the details eg, patterns or feathers.

**Step 4:**
1. Finish with details such as beaks, feet, eyes, noses etc, to bring your animal to life!
Ask questions:

You can get in touch with John via the Last Chance to Paint blog and ask him about his travels to Brazil (June 2019) and Borneo (September 2019), the people he met, as well as the plants and animals he encountered in these amazing ecosystems.

Submit your questions here*:
https://www.lastchancetopaint.com/ask-us-a-question/

*please ask your parent or guardian’s permission first
We have talked about individual elements like people, plants and animals as well as some techniques, but now let's bring these together into a single piece of art.

Watch John's top tips for getting started:
https://vimeo.com/329404071

Once you have created your master piece, share it with the world through the online World Gallery:
https://www.lastchancetopaint.com/submit-your-art/
Pangolin portrait

Background:
Pangolins are the only mammals known to have plate-like scales. When threatened, they roll up into a ball, with their scales acting like a suit of armour!

Useful materials:
• Paper
• Lead pencil
• Black pen
• Rubber.

Curriculum links:
Art and design
• Improve your mastery of art and design techniques, including drawing, painting and sculpture, with a range of materials.
Coronavirus

COVID-19, the strain of coronavirus responsible for the current pandemic, is thought to have originated from wildlife such as snakes, bats or even pangolins.

But, whatever species the virus originally came from, it is the way we exploit wildlife, not the wildlife itself, that is to blame for COVID-19. People around the world farm or poach wild animals for the wildlife trade and bring the animals to crowded wildlife markets just like those in Wuhan, China.

If we can learn one lesson today it should be to respect and care for nature – for its own sake and ours.

“If we don’t take care of nature, we can’t take care of ourselves.”
Inger Andersen, Executive Director of the UN Environment Programme

Keep well,
Laura Gosset, Head of Education

Emerging news:

Whatever trials we are all currently facing, Born Free will continue to help protect wildlife.
DRAWING A PANGOLIN

Follow our step-by-step instructions to create your very own picture-perfect pangolin.

1. In pencil, start by drawing a large circle just above the centre of the page. Add a small circle to the left and slightly lower down, then add gently pointed semi-circles to the left of each shape – leaving space underneath for the tail.

2. Join the smaller shape to the large shape with two lines (the neck), and add basic lines for the front and back legs. Finally add the pangolin’s large tail underneath the body, like a back-to-front S.

3. Add shape to the legs and draw in the claws, which are long with sharp points. Now draw the eye, with an arched eyebrow and two lines below, plus the ear and nostril. Start adding a few scales to the top of the head until you are just about level with the ear.

4. Draw the rest of the scales. Keep them simple – semi-circular shapes that get bigger towards the middle, and smaller again towards the tail. They look a bit like fish scales. Don’t forget to add scales to the legs! Don’t worry if they are not perfect – each scale can be slightly different.

5. The finishing touches! Start by drawing over each line with a fine black felt tip or biro. Next, rub out your pencil marks – it should look a bit neater now. Finally use your black pen to go around the outline of the pangolin to create a smooth finish.
Background:

"Enjoy drawing and some creative ‘you-time’. The next time you pick up your Biro, think of the animal you drew and how the world is a better place for its existence. Remember, EVERYONE CAN DRAW!“
Jane Lee McCracken

Useful materials:

- Paper
- Biro.

Curriculum links:

**Art and design**

- Improve your mastery of art and design techniques, including drawing, painting and sculpture, with a range of materials.
Create your own wildlife postcard

1. Visit the [Wild Postcard Gallery](#)
2. Watch [this video](#) for tips on how to draw a brilliant biro animal
3. Pick up a Biro (ballpoint pen), get creative and draw your favourite wild animal on a blank postcard or piece of paper using any colour Biro
4. If you can't draw the animal in the wild, use a found image as inspiration, or draw from your imagination
5. Your drawing doesn't have to be photo-realistic – express yourself and really enjoy drawing and being transported. We all have our own unique drawing styles, which are all valid!
6. Send a photo or scan of your drawing, your name, town and country to jane@janeleemccracken.co.uk and your drawing will be included in the gallery
7. Why not send your drawing as a gift to someone special to brighten up their day or put it in your window for your neighbours to enjoy.

**What next?**
Spread the word and ask others to pick up a Biro and make a drawing of their favourite wild animal for the gallery. Also check out [12 ways you can help wildlife](#).
Living with lions

Background:

It is not always easy to live next door to large animals, but we can find a way.

Useful materials:

- Red material
- Paper
- Pencils
- Pens
- Other props dependant on your script.

Curriculum links:

English
- Reading – Comprehension
- Writing – Composition.

SMSC
- Encourage respect for other people.
Improvising for wildlife:

Working either on your own or with others – create and perform a play about living with lions – what will happen next?

Setting:
Amboseli National Park, Kenya

Characters:
Maasai community members, lions and cows

What happened:
A lion has killed one of your cows

How will you protect wildlife, people and livestock?
Background:

Getting you started:

- There are less than 25,000 lions left in the wild and each one is important.
- About 2,000 of these live in Kenya.
- When wildlife and people live close together human-wildlife conflict can occur because they compete for resources and space.
- Born Free works with communities to try and find solutions.
- It is not always easy to live next door to large animals, but together we can find a way.

Extra information:
- [www.bornfree.org.uk/animals/lions](http://www.bornfree.org.uk/animals/lions)
- [www.bornfree.org.uk/predator-proof-boma-project-amboseli](http://www.bornfree.org.uk/predator-proof-boma-project-amboseli)
Tips for creating your drama:

Creating your roles

People:
- What is their name?
- What do they need?
- What do they think about lions?
- Why do they think this?

Animals:
- Do they have what they need?
- How can they find it?
- What do they think about humans?
- Why do they think this?

- Step into your role and have fun – explore it as if you were there and living it.

Putting the roles together
- Think about how your characters would interact with one another
- What do they have in common?
- What props could help you to make your role come to life?

Improvisation
- This involves creating an imaginary situation
- Your play should not be rehearsed, but you can plan the main actions in advance
- Make sure you remember the question: **How will you protect wildlife, people and livestock?**