



Finding

Explore pattern and texture through a range of different media techniques

At Key Stage 2 children can become increasingly concerned with representing the visual world accurately in their drawings, paintings, prints or sculptures. Although they can pay close attention to making their images recognisable, they sometimes pay a little less attention to their particular *qualities*, the features that make it unique

– and quite often these qualities are to do with details such as pattern and texture.

Pattern can mean a design that's to be copied, but in art the term generally implies *repetition* of some kind.

Texture can be both real or imagined; it can suggest not only the *feel* of a surface (actual texture), but also the *appearance* of a surface (implied texture). For

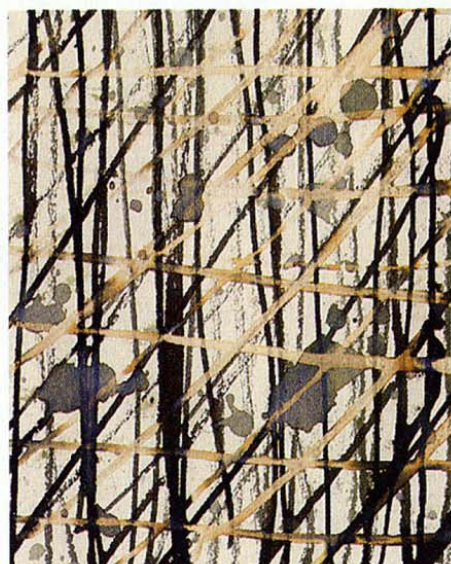
example, drawing materials can be used on smooth paper in a way that creates the impression of a textured surface. The activities on these pages here are designed to encourage children to explore these qualities through a range of media. Some focus on pattern, some on texture, while several demonstrate that the two elements can be combined to great effect.

ACTIVITIES Ages 7–11

Texture

1 Drawing

Though we often ask children to draw trees, it is hard to think of a more difficult task! However, drawing the textures to be found on pieces of bark can be manageable, intriguing and rewarding, and is a great way to build children's confidence in their drawing. Make a collection of natural textures to display in the classroom and use it as the focus of some observational drawing lessons. Talk about the textures of the materials and give the children the chance to explore charcoal, chalk and pastels, as well as pencils. (See image below.)



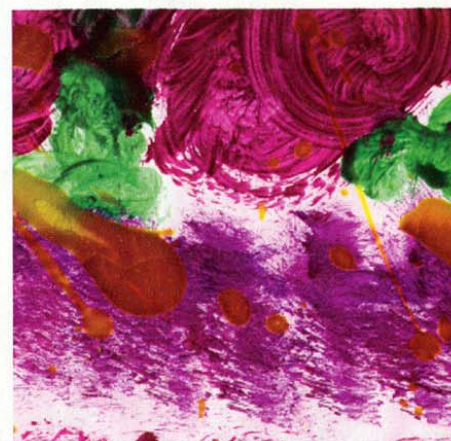
2 Printmaking

Monoprints are great fun to make (and a useful way of using up excess ink at the end of a lesson). Roll ink very thinly across a flat palette (a perspex sheet is ideal), place paper over the top and draw on the back, taking care not to move the paper or lean on it. The image below was made by using white ink on orange sugar paper – notice how the paper has picked up extra patches of ink that form interesting and unpredictable textures.



3 Painting

Talk to the children about how texture can be represented in a painting, both by varying brush strokes and by combining paint with other materials. Explain that artists sometimes talk about a *vocabulary of marks*. The image top right has a wide vocabulary of marks: paint has



been thinned down and applied in thick wet brush strokes, then stippled on with a dry brush, and finally flicked across the top to create an *implied* texture. In the image below, sand and lentils have been mixed in with the paint to create an *actual* texture.

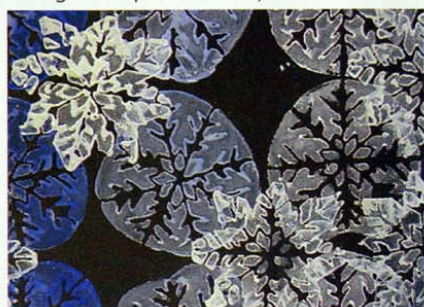


the features

Pattern

1 Potato prints

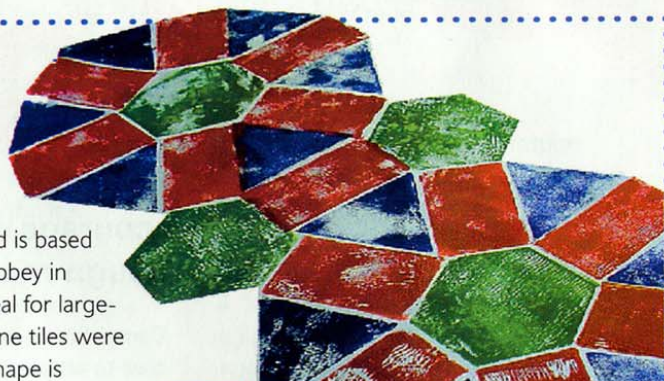
Making prints is the ideal way for children to investigate repeated patterns. Some children – and teachers – might assume that potato prints are strictly for the Foundation Stage, but the image below shows that with a little thought the process can produce some



striking results. The snowflake pattern was carved into the potato and printed in shades of blue before more sections were cut away from the potato to create a complex multi-layered pattern.

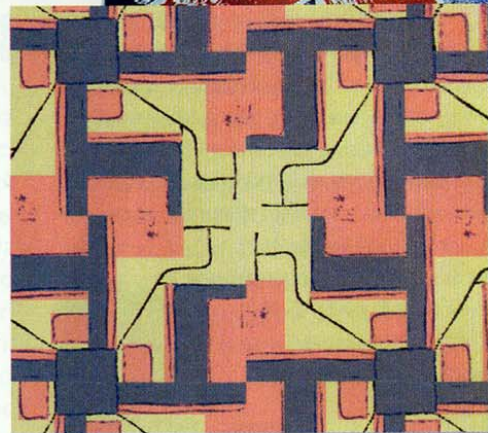
2 Using ties

The repeat pattern in the image right consists of interlocking hexagons, rectangles and triangles, and is based on tiles found at Rievaulx Abbey in Yorkshire. This activity is ideal for large-scale group work: polystyrene tiles were cut to shape (two of each shape is enough) and printed face down onto a large sheet of paper.



3 ICT

The inspiration for this print was a small section of the map of the London Underground! The image was scanned into the computer and then cut and pasted several times into a new document; each time, the image was rotated 90° and placed to match previous layers. You can also change the colours of the prints using this technique.



Pattern and texture

1 Mixed media

Experimenting with non-conventional materials can produce intriguing results. For this experiment, candle wax was dripped across the page, then brushed over with coffee to create the pattern.



2 Textiles

Autumnal leaves were the inspiration for this textile piece, which features both actual textures (the fabric and the sewn lines) and implied textures (the painted lines).

3 Collage

Tissue paper can be spread thinly to make translucent shapes or crumpled to make opaque shapes. Here it has been torn to create a background pattern of random shapes, before being twisted into strips for a second textured layer and sealed with PVA glue to create a collage inspired by the Tube map. ■



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