

REACHING OUT



We want to reach out!

As schools return, we look to support each school's efforts to get involved with the rich tapestry of culture and creativity within the borough. Tameside Cultural Services have been looking at how we can best use our years of experience and resources to support schools. We will link in with the Philosophy for Children, as well as the National Curriculum, the schools' recovery curriculum and the Five Ways to Wellbeing: Connect, Be Active, Take Notice, Keep Learning and Give.

Each month, we will share information relating to our education offer as well as giving further ideas and ways to engage with our offer in your classroom. There will be activities from each of the Cultural Services teams and we will take the opportunity to highlight one of our site based workshops as when we are able to, we cannot wait to welcome you back to our sites and great outdoors.



WELLBEING WALKS

Immerse yourself in the natural world and get all 'touchy feely' through a wide range of sensory activities.

Children will use their senses to discover all about the benefits of their local greenspaces.

Why are trees so important? Why we should look after our environment, how we can improve an area, making it more wildlife friendly and how we can encourage more people to enjoy greenspaces.

culture
Tameside





What is hapa-zome printing?

Quite literally meaning 'leaf dye', Hapa-zome is the Japanese technique of smashing flowers and leaves into fabric. The plant matter is often arranged into a mandala, but you can create any pattern you like. Be sure to use fresh, juicy plants though; these will leave the best imprint.

Collect a number of natural materials to print from. To produce a good print they need moisture in them – moist leaves, flowers and grasses work very well – a completely dried-out leaf not so much.

You'll need a firm, flat surface to place the items onto to be able to withstand the hammering – a wooden slice, chopping board or a flat stone are ideal.

1. Place a flower or leaf onto a flat, preferably smooth, surface.
 2. Cover it with the fabric or paper. Try to hold this in the same position while you are bashing so you get a nice clear print.
 3. Gently tap the natural material underneath the fabric, trying to keep the hammer head as flat as possible as you bash it. The aim is to crush the plant gently so the colours are released but it is not smashed to bits. Tap repeatedly until the colour of the plant starts to come through the fabric.
 4. Continue tapping until you have covered the whole area.
 5. Peel off the fabric or paper, the natural colourings in the plant should have stained the material.
- NB: during winter leaves and plants often have a lot less water in them which means this activity requires a bit more careful prep and persistence when hammering.



Resources required

1 piece of paper or fabric (cotton is preferred)

Fresh and juicy flowers/leaves

Rubber mallet or hammer

Wooden backing board or hard level surface

Note:

Be mindful of poisonous or allergenic plants. If a plant is unfamiliar to you, it might be a good idea to research it online to ensure it's safe to use.

To have a chat about how we can help support school, contact:

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Tameside Cultural Services

APPRECIATING NATURE SOUND MAP

REACHING OUT



What is a Sound Map?

Sound maps confront a bad habit that most of us have developed - we are so intent on getting somewhere that we miss much of what we are travelling through. Or a place is so familiar we fail to notice the detail that makes it special. And yet in woodlands, nature reserves, parks, gardens and countryside trails it is the moments of pause that can offer up the richest opportunities to absorb the places we are in.

As a technique, sound maps couldn't be easier. They are simple and cheap to make, in fact they look so simple it can be hard for people to believe they are going to have the effect that they do.

How to make a sound map.

Sound maps are easy to make. Cardboard is good as you will often do this exercise when out and about. You could use any plain cardboard - the inside of a cereal box, a cardboard box, white card - make it big enough to draw and write on. Get a marker or pencil, and that's it!

People record sounds differently - some write the names of what they hear, others draw.

How to use a sound map.

Take a sound map and pencil or pen

Mark yourself in the middle of the sound map

Find a spot and stand or sit still

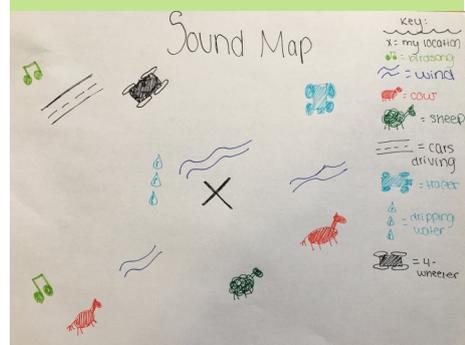
Stay still for a short while (try 5 minutes) and start to listen to what is making sound around you.

Mark on the card the sounds you can hear and where they are coming from, for example there may be a stream behind you, sheep in a field in front of you, birds singing above and to your side. Be still and quiet and really focus on sounds you can hear.

You can draw, write or colour the sounds you can hear around you.

Pupils said that sound mapping helped them slow down and pay attention to the detail around them, it also helped give them a better sense of the wider place - they could pick up the sounds of a road and a train track for example which could prove to be useful for navigation.

Another approach we've used is to combine different senses, so people record the shapes they associate with different sounds, or textures - if they could touch the sound what would it feel like?



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