



Natural Dyes

Aims: To experiment with natural dyes

Keystage Art: 2a, 2b, 3a, 4a, 4b | Science 1: 2a, 2f, 2i

Many dyes originated from plants.

Use this worksheet to test some naturally occurring plants (blackberries, dandelion, dead leaves, roots) or some vegetable dyes (beetroot, onion skins, spinach, red cabbage).

Testing of dyes can be done either out in the field or in class. Each pupil needs to pick a material to test and predict the colour that this will give. This could be recorded either in writing or by the use of coloured paints, pencils or crayons. They should then wipe the material in the space on the sheet, pressing on quite hard so that a stain is left. It will then be possible to see whether or not the prediction was correct.

Take some natural fabrics into the classroom and experiment with different papers and fabrics to see if the effects are any different. Produce a picture using the natural dyes.



Predicted colour _____



Material _____

Colour _____

Predicted colour _____



Material _____

Colour _____

Predicted colour _____



Material _____

Colour _____

Predicted colour _____



Material _____

Colour _____