

Puzzlewood

A Magical Woodland in the Forest of Dean

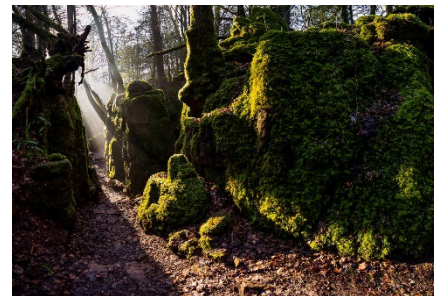
Art and Design KS1 and 2

Puzzlewood is a designated ancient woodland. It is a special, important and protected place. The woodland is so old it has developed intricate communities of plants, animals and fungi.

Puzzlewood is a unique environment for the study of art and design. The magical woodland lends itself to the practise of art skills including drawing, painting and printing. Our covered barn means that you can create whatever the weather!

It is ideal for a day of developing art skills within an enclosed environment.

We strongly recommend that you visit the site before your visit, as there are so many varied opportunities for creative curriculum development.



National Curriculum Programs of Study:

Art and Design

KS1

use a range of materials creatively to design and make products

use drawing, painting and sculpture to develop and share their ideas, experiences and imagination

develop a wide range of art and design techniques in using colour, pattern, texture, line, shape, form and space

learn about the work of a range of artists, craft makers and designers, describing the differences and similarities between different practices and disciplines, and making links to their own work.

KS2

create sketch books to record their observations and use them to review and revisit ideas

improve their mastery of art and design techniques, including drawing, painting and sculpture with a range of materials [for example, pencil, charcoal, paint, clay]

about great artists, architects and designers in history.

Suggested activities for your visit:

You are requested to stay on the marked paths. You are welcome to use natural objects found on the ground but please don't pick leaves or flowers.

Drawing

Walk around the woodland looking carefully at the environment. What do you see? Talk about the natural colours, patterns and textures all around. Look closely at the scowles and their shape and form. Using iPads take photos of this environment for use back in the classroom.

Drawing warm up activity – 5 minutes to observe and draw six natural patterns from the woodland.

Use sketchbooks, or paper and clipboards to draw a section of the woodland using pencil or charcoal. Decide on a focus for the drawing e.g. line, shape, pattern. Set a time limit and begin to draw. Share and discuss with a partner.

Using a viewfinder, focus on a small section (tree trunk, rock formation etc) and draw again. Share and discuss with a partner.

Texture hunt. Use your viewfinder to zoom in on small details. Make sketches of the different textures you spy. Work in small groups to label the sketches with appropriate vocabulary e.g. rough, hard, prickly, furry.

Collaborative drawing. In the barn use a large piece of paper on the floor or table to work together in groups to create a collaborative drawing of the woodland using ideas from observational drawings.

Use found natural objects (leaves, stones) to practice drawing without lifting your pencil from the paper.

Painting

Painting activities, using water-based paint, are welcome in the covered barn but not in the woodland.

Colour mixing. Mix shades and tints of colours to match the colours found in the wood. Mix colours to match natural found objects.

Look at the work of Forest of Dean artist, Doug Eaton. <https://dougatonart.co.uk/>
<https://www.puzzlewood.net/index.php/component/k2/item/24-puzzlewood-nocturnal-residents> He uses very bright and unusual colours to paint the woods and trees of our local landscape. Use similar bright colours to paint Puzzlewood.

Listen to this poem by Forest of Dean writer, Leonard Clark. <https://www.readingtheforest.co.uk/leonard-clark.html> In this poem he describes the flora and fauna of the wood near his home. Draw and then paint a picture of a wood (using previous sketches) and include some of the animals and birds that can be found in Puzzlewood. Use the animal mural next to the covered barn as inspiration.

The walls of our indoor barn have been painted by www.endoftheline.co/ in their distinctive street art style. Use this as inspiration for painting or drawing and colouring in this style.

Read our blog to find out more about the 'Our Planet' mural:
<https://www.puzzlewood.net/index.php/component/k2/item/22-our-planet-puzzlewood-murals>

Sculpture

Bring your own air-drying clay to use on the day. We are happy to store your creations for a few days until dry.

The woods and site provide ample opportunities for creating natural sculptures. Andy Goldsworthy's work gives lots of inspiration for using found natural objects and creating land art.

<https://artuk.org/learn/learning-resources/andy-goldsworthy-and-land-art>

Use the flora, fauna and natural landscape of Puzzlewood to inspire wire sculptures. Make sketches during your walk around to inform your work. Use the covered barn to make your wire sculptures or complete back in the classroom. Looking at the work of artist Alberto Giacometti would make an excellent link to an artist who is considered one of the greatest sculptors of the 20th century and would provide inspiration for this work. <https://www.tate.org.uk/art/artists/alberto-giacometti-1159>

Printing

Bring your own light sensitive paper to make sun prints. Children find and gather natural found objects and arrange. Allow the paper to be exposed to light (it doesn't have to be sunny) and a print will appear.

Use the tree trunks in the barn to make print rubbings.

The artist William Morris used nature and symmetry to produce beautiful textile designs as part of the Arts and Crafts movement <https://williammorrisociety.org/>

Puzzlewood provides a fantastic resource to find inspiration for your own print or textile designs:

Make sketches of insects, birds, sections of landscape and plants. Use these sketches to inform designs for polystyrene tile printing or block printing in the classroom.

Take photographs with an iPad to use in an art app or program to make a repeating pattern/tile that can be reflected 2 or 4 times.

