Pathway: Stick Transformation Project

Pathway for Years 1 & 2

Disciplines:

Making, Drawing, Sketchbooks

Key Concepts:

- **That artists use their creativity to look at the world in new ways, and use their hands to transform materials into new things.**
- **That making art can be playful and fun. That we can create things for other people to enjoy/use.**
- **That we can use our imagination to help us shape the world.**

In this pathway children are enabled to use their imagination and transform a familiar object (a stick) into new forms.

The pathway begins with a simple sculptural warm-up which encourages children to think creatively and laterally about how they can use materials to create a small sculpture.

Depending upon project choice, children then go on to make stick people inspired by Guatemalan Worry Dolls, make a treehouse, or make a mask.

Sketchbooks are used throughout to help children brainstorm, record and reflect.

Medium:

Twigs, Construction Materials, Paper, Wool, Drawing Materials

Artists: **Chris Kenny**

If you use this resource in your setting, please tag us on social media: #InspiredBy @accessart (facebook, twitter) @accessart.org.uk (instagram) and share the url. Thank you!

AGES 5-8

Curriculum Links

English: Link to Julia Donaldson's Stick Man.

PSHE: Collaboration, Peer Discussion, Ethnic Identity.

I Can...

- I can take a familiar object like a stick, and use my imagination to think about what it might become.
- I can use my sketchbook to generate ideas and to test ideas.
- I can use a variety of materials to transform my object thinking about form and colour.
- I can cut materials with simple tools and fasten materials together to construct my sculpture.
- I can share my sketchbook and sculpture with the class and talk about how I made it and what I liked. I can listen to my classmates feedback about my work.
- I can listen to my classmates talk about their own artwork and I can share my thoughts about their work.
- I can take a photograph of my sculpture, thinking about focus.

Time

- This pathway takes 6 weeks, with an hour per week. Shorten or lengthen the suggested pathway according to time and experience. Follow the stages in green for a shorter pathway or less complex journey.

Materials

- Roots and shoots materials such as a pebble, wire, tape, string, wool, paper, card, or other small found items and construction materials.

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Aims of the Pathway

The aim of this pathway is to help children understand how artists use their creativity to re-see, re-invent or reimagine the world around them.

The pathway encourages children to look again at something they are familiar with – in this case a stick or twig, and think how they can use their creativity to transform it.

Week 1: Making & Playing

Roots and Shoots

Use the "Roots and Shoots" resource to start with a making warm-up exercise to encourage pupils to think creatively about the world around them.

Let the process of playing and exploring with the materials lead children to the end result.

Remember that the outcomes will be fragile and may not last due to the nature of the task, so be sure to take photographs of them at the end of the session to add to sketchbooks.

Week 2 & 3 & 4 & 5: Projects

Find Your Focus

Choose one or two projects from the options below depending on how much time you have and how slowly the pupils work.

Watch "Design Through Making" to remind yourself that it's okay for children to just make first!

Project 1: Stick People – Sticks, string, wool, fabric scraps, tissue paper, glue.

Project 2: Tree house – Twigs, plant pots, newspaper, a stone, cardboard – brown corrugated card, coloured card, string, fabric, glue sticks, small pieces of wood (i.e. lolly sticks, coffee stirrers, match sticks etc) and other construction materials.

Project 3: Twig Masks – Twigs, masking tape, coloured tissue paper, glue.
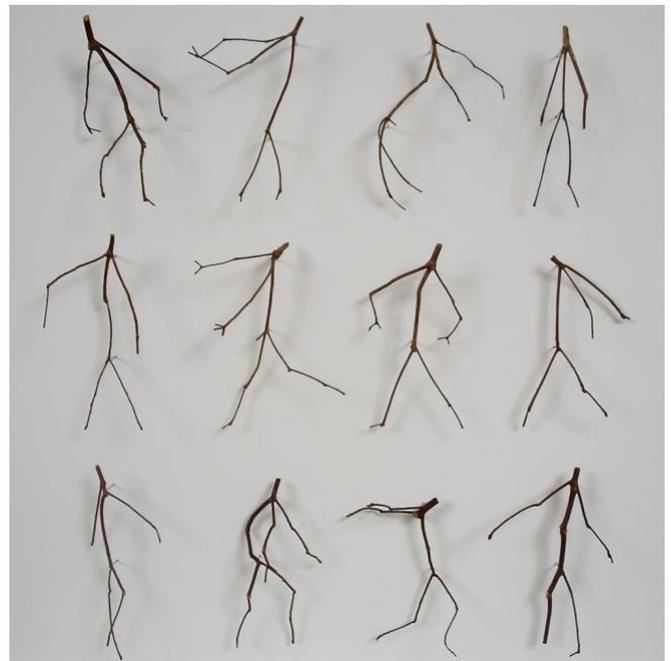
Project One: Introduce & Create

Stick People

Follow the pathway below to make stick people out of found twigs!
Watch this video of 'Stick Man' as a light hearted introduction to the idea that sticks and twigs can be reimagined into different things!

Watch "Talking Points: The Craft of Worry Dolls" resource to understand the Guatemalan tradition of making worry dolls.

Stick People

Project Two: Introduce & Create	In the first session take a look at "Talking Points: Chris Kenny" to inspire children to see how sticks can be reinvented as people. Take the children outside to find the perfect sticks and use our "Worry People" resource to create a class full of stick people. Use sketchbooks to design clothes and explore how the position of arms/legs/body affects personality of stick person. Or... **Tree House** Transform twigs into trees and use them to ignite imagination and build playful treehouses. Start by exploring the "Talking Points: Treehouses" resource for some inspiration. Continue by using the "Treehouse Challenge" resource. Use sketchbooks throughout as a way to sketch out ideas and make visual notes.

Project Three: Introduce & Create Twig Masks		Or… **Twig Masks** Use sticks, masking tape and tissue paper to create these simple masks. Adapt the "Making a Mask from Sticks" resource. Link to an existing curriculum topic if appropriate, or consider using the "Source Material: Oceans" to find videos to inspire an underwater theme. Use the "Ruler Drawings" resource to help children capture what they are seeing in straight lines, pausing the videos and giving pupils time to work in their sketchbooks. This will help them when they are reimagining twigs. If possible, go outside and forage for twigs with the children. Spend the next two sessions creating your crustacean inspired twig masks.
Week 6: **Present &** **Celebrate**	●	**Share, Reflect, Discuss** Time to see the work which has been made, talk about intention and outcome. Invite children to display the work in a clear space and walk around the work as if they are in a gallery. Give the work the respect it deserves. Remind the children of their hard work. Use the resource here to help you run a class "crit" to finish the project.