

13) Canal Art Ideas

Art Idea 1: Sensory painting of canal water

It's time to get messy!

Equipment:

1. Cartridge paper
2. Medium to small ready mix paint in containers in the colours of canal water: greys, blues, greens, purples, yellows and white.
3. Acetate sheets, or file pockets, or clear PVC
4. Thick cardboard or acetate cut to create comb scrapers.

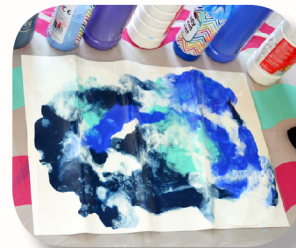
Activity:

1. Squeeze the water coloured paints onto the paper straight from the bottles.
2. Take a piece of plastic overlay and place it on top of the paint and push the paint around under the plastic with your fingers.
3. Place the plastic used in activity 2 on a new sheet of paper to print an image of the first picture
3. Move the paint around with the comb type scrapers making wavy patterns

Activity 1



Activity 2



Activity 3



Activity 4



Art Idea 2: Creating canal barge decorations:

The canal people - bargees - liked to decorate their boats with colourful designs. This included roses and castles and diamond patterns

2a: Painting Roses:

Create your own painted roses.

Equipment:

1. Cartridge Paper - black works well
2. Ready mixed non-toxic paints in bright colours of red, green, yellow in separate trays.
3. Celery, sliced across two inches from the root (in cross section) and other parts of the celery cut across and bound with tape.
4. Some individual celery sticks cut across (in cross section)

Activity:

1. Using the cut celery like a stamp, dip the flat cut part of the celery into the paint and then onto the paper to create the roses.
Try not to get too much paint on the celery as it will smudge the pattern.
2. Use single celery sticks for the leaf patterns



2b: Draw your own imaginary castle

Castles were a popular decoration on barges. No one is sure why this is. One idea may be that because of the cramped conditions on the barges, living in a castle would be a dream come true.

If you could live in a castle with any sort of rooms you can imagine, what would they be? A cinema room, a slide instead of stairs or a roller-coaster in the garden.



Equipment:

1. Cartridge paper
2. Pencils and coloured crayons

Activity:

1. Design and draw an imaginary castle or dream home, including the different rooms it could have.
2. You could colour it in or leave it as a line drawing.
3. For some students print off different styles of room and furniture so they can cut and stick to create their design.

Art idea 3: Cow models

Did you know that cows were used to build the canal? The canal was sealed with a lining of clay. To compact the clay herds of cows were moved along the bottom of the empty canal. You can still see access ramps built into the side walls. See if you can spot one next time you walk along the canal.



Equipment:

1. Collect scrap items such as: cereal packets, kitchen roll inner, yoghurt pots etc
2. Glue and glue sticks
3. Paint and brushes
4. Safety scissors

Activity:

1. Create a model of a cow using junk modelling materials. You could cover them in paper mâché or Mod Roc and paint them. Having some photos of cows might help some students.
2. Paint it

Art Idea 4: Create an image of the footprints of the “leggers” movements in the tunnel

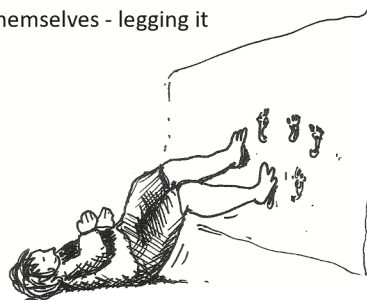
When canal barges were pulled by horses they could not pull them through tunnels so the barge men had to push the boats through by lying down on a plank and using their feet to push the barge through themselves - legging it

Equipment:

1. Plastic covers, cheap shower curtains are ideal
2. Long roll of lining paper
3. Wide masking tape
4. Large trays with paints of different colours in
5. Ready mixed non-toxic paint
6. Flatbed trolley or skateboard

Activity:

1. On a suitable length of wall tape up plastic covering about one metre up the wall and down onto the floor about one metre away from the base of the wall. Along the protected wall tape a long roll of paper near to the base. Tape the plastic covering down securely to prevent slipping.
2. Put different colours of non-toxic paint on trays for pupils to dip their feet in. (Be sure to have cleaning up materials to hand!)
3. Pupils sit or lie on a skateboard, dip feet into paint. Starting at one end of the wall, ‘walk’ along the paper as you scoot along the floor, pretending you are a legger helping a boat go from one end of the room/tunnel to the other. Or just stay in one place lying on the floor with your feet on the wall. For pupils in wheel chairs or those unable to lie down on the floor, place the paper higher up on the wall so they are able to join in from their wheel chairs or from a classroom chair.



Art Idea 5: Observational Drawing:

Equipment:

1. Pencil or coloured crayons
2. Cartridge paper
3. Select an object or picture related to a canal

Activity:

1. Select an object or picture related to a canal to draw (See student book for ideas)