

Ben Uri Gallery
Art Skills For Teachers

Collage



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Using collage in the classroom

Paper Collage

This is perhaps one of the simplest methods of using collage in the classroom and can lead to some striking results. Provide pupils with a range of papers. These can be copier papers, newspapers, magazines, wallpapers. For this activity, insist that pupils do not use pens or pencils. Every detail must be made from paper, for example, eyes must be cut out and stuck on etc. Pupils may use a pencil on the back of the coloured paper to assist them with drawing their shapes, but no detail must be drawn with pen or pencil on the final piece. Glue sticks are best used for this activity, as PVA glue tends to curl the paper. It is best to work on plain white or plain black background paper, to enhance the colours and patterns of the collage. Sugar paper or cartridge is best.



Pupils started by making observational drawings of birds. They visited the zoo to draw birds from real life and also looked at pictures in books.

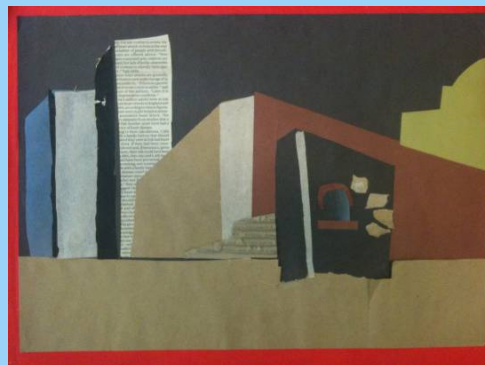


These bird paper collages were made by Year 6 pupils.

Paper collage



Year 2 pupils use paper collage to create 'A Sense of Place' scenes, inspired by the story of Little Red Riding Hood.



Year 6 collage of a local landscape inspired by the 'A Sense of Place' pack. Sugar paper and newspaper.

Paper collage

These mosaic inspired pictures were created by Year 4 pupils using sugar paper and coloured copier paper.

The pictures are most effective if a black sugar paper background is used. Emphasise to pupils that spaces must be left in between each square of coloured paper, the squares must not be touching!

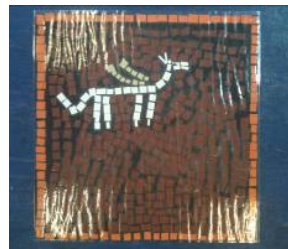
This can be done as an individual project, on approx A3 size, or on a larger scale with pupils in groups of about 5 or 6, on A1 size. This project is fairly time consuming, so it is best to allow at least 3 hour long sessions to complete.

How to do it!

Provide pupils with paper that has been cut, using the guillotine, into 1cm thick strips.

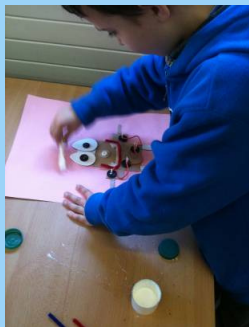
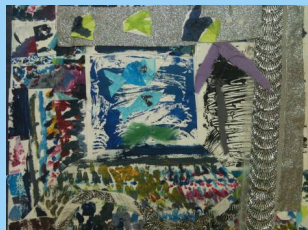
Pupils can then cut the strips into squares themselves. This minimizes waste and makes storing the spare paper much easier.

Pupils can draw a light outline of their picture using a pencil and then use the squares to 'fill in' the shapes.

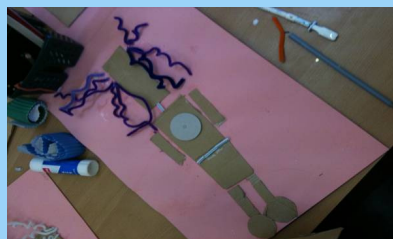


Mixed Media Collage

Collages can be made from a variety of materials. Materials can be grouped by colour which can be great for creating abstract work. These collages were made by Year 5 pupils, who were exploring the theme of water. The painted sections of the collage were made using printing techniques (see *Art Skills for Teacher Printing and Painting*). Other textures were then added using coloured paper, fabric, wool and string.



These mixed media collages were created by Year 3 pupils, as part of a Robots 'Moving Parts' project. Pupils designed their robots on to paper and were then provided with a range of materials, including cardboard, buttons, paper clips, treasury tags and pipe cleaners.



Pupils created the collaged robots which were then sprayed using silver spray. (This was done by the teacher outside in the playground.)



Paper Collage & Pastel/Wax Rubbing

This is a fantastic way of creating pictures that can be reproduced over and over again! It is a great technique for creating art work for any number of themes and the technique can be used by children of all ages.

Pictures must be created first of all, using paper, as in the paper collages described above. It works best if paper shapes are layered on top of each other. For example, in the picture below, the pupil has cut out the giraffe shape out and then added paper spots on top. Make sure all paper pieces are well stuck down. Once the paper picture has been created you can create a rubbing.



Year 4 pupils making rubbings on the floor.



The paper collage rubbing



How to do it!

Ensure that the paper picture is secured to the table (or floor if a large picture- the floor surface must be hard and flat however, a carpet wouldn't work) It is best to use masking tape for this. When the paper is in place pupils are ready to make the rubbings. Cover the paper picture with another piece of plain paper. Newsprint paper is best for this as it is thin, which create a better rubbing. Next, taking an oil pastel or wax crayon, turn the crayon on to its side (paper casings must be removed from the crayon or pastel if the brand has them). Rub the crayon or pastel, slowly and firmly over the paper, until the picture is revealed. Pupils can use one colour, or experiment with a variety of colours.

Painted Paper Collage

This is a fantastic way of creating collages with texture. It also encourages children to create their own resources for use in the classroom.

Children should create lots of painted sheets of paper. The sheets can be created as part of a colour mixing activity, for example how many greens can you make? How many blues can you make? (See Arts Skills for Teacher Painting for more ideas) The sheets can also be created as part of a pattern and texture paintings exercise. Allow one session for creating the painted sheets of paper. Cartridge paper is best as will hold the paint and stay fairly flat.

Once the sheets have dried they can be used for making collages. The paper can be cut into shape using scissors, or ripped into pieces for greater texture as in these landscapes below.



Painted Paper Collages by Year 4 pupils.



If there is not enough time to create painted sheets, magazines or coloured paper can be used, but painted sheets will create wonderful textures and their creation turns the activity into a longer term project.